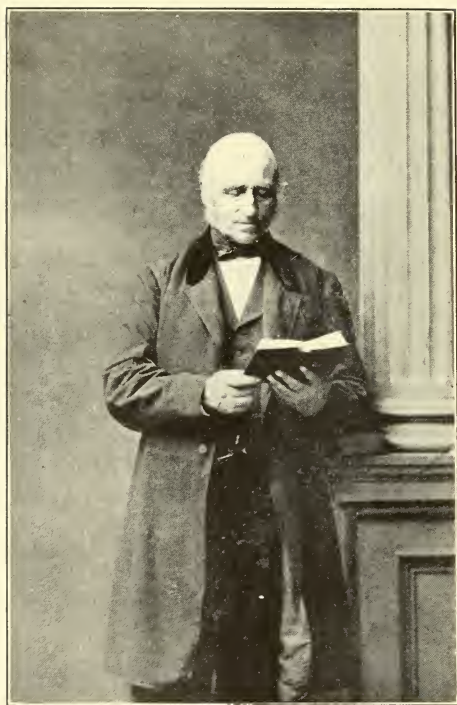






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THE
HISTORICAL
COLLECTIONS
OF THE
TOPSFIELD HISTORICAL SOCIETY

VOL. XVI

1911

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1911

GEORGE FRANCIS DOW

Editor

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ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE SECRETARY OF THE
TOPSFIELD HISTORICAL SOCIETY
FOR THE YEAR ENDING DEC. 31, 1910.

The membership of the society on December 31, 1910, was 252. Only four new members have been elected during the year, while one has resigned and five have been removed by death:—Henry W. Lake, a charter member and at the time of his death a director of the society; Mrs. Jennie Hood Bosson of Reading, whose genealogy of the Hood family was printed in the last volume of our Historical Collections; Miss Anna S. Lamson of Topsfield; Fred A. Phelps of Laconia, N. H., and David Cummings of Boston. Mr. Cummings executed a will on Oct. 8, 1907 and when it was offered for probate on April 25, 1910 it was found that the sum of two thousand dollars had been given to this society together with an interest in the residue probably amounting to a like sum. This generous bequest makes it possible for the society to acquire a permanent home and having in view the possible ownership of real property, incorporation under the laws of Massachusetts was effected at a meeting held September 2nd, and at the same meeting a committee was appointed to ascertain on what terms the Capen house, so called, might be secured as a permanent home for the Society, thereby preserving for later generations one of the most interesting of the 17th century dwellings yet remaining in Essex County. After conference, however, it was found that the present owner declined to sell the property and the terms under which the house might be leased for a period of five years seemed so disadvantageous that it seems necessary to abandon the proposed plan. No other building of recognized antiquity now remains in town that is worthy of consideration in this connection and if the plan of acquiring

permanent quarters is to be followed out it necessarily must be along other lines. In the not distant future it will be an imperative necessity to provide enlarged quarters for the Topsfield Town Library and should a library building be erected, no doubt some arrangement could be made whereby the society would be provided with suitable rooms and the financial details arranged with mutual advantage.

Volume 14 of the Historical Collections has been distributed during the year and Volume 15 is about ready to be sent to the binder. Four meetings have been held at which papers have been read by Henry F. Long and the Secretary.

Respectfully submitted,

GEORGE FRANCIS DOW,

Secretary.

REPORT OF THE TREASURER
OF THE TOPSFIELD HISTORICAL SOCIETY
FOR THE YEAR ENDING DEC. 31, 1910

RECEIPTS

1910		
Jan. 1,	Balance on hand,	\$147 75
Dec. 31,	Hist. Colls. sold,	13 00
"	Annual dues,	100 50
"	Binding Hist. Colls.	25 20
		<hr/>
		\$286 75

PAYMENTS

1910		
Dec. 31,	Printing Vol. 14 (balance),	\$ 45 40
	Engraving "	2 40
	Binding "	30 42
	Printing Vol. 15,	54 41
	Fee for incorporating,	5 00
	Deficit, transportation (Wellman),	4 60
	Postals,	1 80
	Balance,	142 72
		<hr/>
		\$286 75
		<hr/>
Jan. 2, 1911,	Balance cash on hand,	\$142 72

THE BUILDING FUND

1910		
Jan. 1,	Amount on hand,	
	(Salem Savings Bank),	\$781 80
	Interest one year,	31 56
		<hr/>
		\$813 36

Respectfully submitted,

GEORGE FRANCIS DOW,

Examined and approved,	Treasurer.
C. J. PEABODY,	
J. H. TOWNE.	

THE PHYSICIANS OF TOPSFIELD, WITH SOME ACCOUNT OF EARLY MEDICAL PRACTICE.

BY HENRY FOLLANSBEE LONG.

In the early days of New England there was no distinct class of men following the profession of medicine, but the practice was taken up in connection with some other calling. In every community either the minister or the school-master or some skilled nurse was expected to act in cases of need. In taking care of the sick, the neighborly interest stood in good stead, in fact much in olden days had to depend upon kindly neighbors. At the period when Massachusetts was settled, medicine was an art rather than a science.

The question of some medical man to serve them was a matter considered deeply by the colonists. "For many years before the Puritans came to this country, being subjected to bitter persecution, and foreseeing the possibility of an ejection, a considerable number of their ministers studied medicine. They saw the probable needs of the future, and fitted themselves, as best they could, for any emergency that might arise in a new settlement, hence they formed a large proportion of the early physicians of Massachusetts." Even to-day we see our foreign missionaries studying medicine as practical preparation for their

duties in a new field. This custom, in fact, is as old as civilization itself, from the days of the ancient priests of Egypt, Greece, and Rome, who were the ones to collect and preserve the traditions of medicine. There is no record that any of the early Topsfield ministers practised medicine, but one of the early practitioners was also a schoolmaster.

Some of the early remedies are at times amusing and at others disgusting. Many and manifold are the remedies to "cheare the heart," to "drive melancholy," to "cure one pensive," "for the megrums," and "for a grief," and without doubt the lonely colonists often needed them. We also learn from the old records that "things ill for the heart were beans, pease, sadness, onions, anger, evil tidings, and loss of friends; a very arbitrary and unjust classification." Our ancestors were troubled with insomnia. Here is a cure: "Bruise a handful of anis-seeds, and steep them in Red Rose Water and make it up in little bags, and binde one of them to each Nostrill, and it will cause sleep." Among other things we learn that, "picking the gums with the bill of an osprey is good for the toothache, . . . bear's grease is good for aches and cold swellings, . . . a stone found in the head of the cod-fish, when pulverized, stops fluxes of blood." For fevers it was customary to take "two salt white herrings and slit them down the back and bind them to the soles of the patient's feet."

Another ingredient of the early doses,—unicorn's horns—must have been difficult to secure in New England. John Endicott says in a letter written in 1634, "I have sent you Mrs. Beggarly her Unicorns horne and bezar stone." Both the unicorn's horn and the bezoar stone were sovereign antidotes against poisons. In the Winthrop Papers, in a letter to J. Winthrop, Jr., under date of January 26, 1656, we find the following: "Lett me tell you an easy medicine of mine owne that I have seene do miraculous cures in all sortes of vlcers, and in knitting soddainly broken bones . . . Beate to subtile powder one ounce of crabbes eyes, then putt vpon it in a high glasse foure ounces of strong wine-vinegar. It will instanely

boyle vp extremly ; lett it stand till all be quiett ; then straine it through a fine lenon ; and of this liquor (w^{ch} will then tast like dead beere ; without any sharpnesse) giue two spoonefuls att a time to drinke, three times a day ; and you shall see a strange effect in a weeke or two," and, " For all sortes of agewes, I haue of late tryed the following magnetically experiment, with infallible succeſſe. Pare the patients nayles when the fever is coming on ; and put the paringes into a little bagge of fine lenon or sarsenet ; and tye that about a liue eeles necke, in a tubbe of water. The eele will dye and the patient will recover. And if a dog or hog eate that eele, they will also dye."

Little by little, however, these disgusting agents were dropped, and in their places came the herbs and simples of our grandmothers. The family that did not provide itself with a plentiful supply of herbs was considered negligent of its duties. Every household had its simple domestic remedies for common complaints, and few were the families that did not possess some old book containing manuscript receipts for all sorts of ordinary ailments. Some of the more common herbs used for concoctions, which in some cases were given without rhyme or reason and make us wonder how the patient could possibly recover, were, wormwood, tansy, yarrow, dandelion, burdock, plantain, catnip, and mint (all these herbs came here by importation), and ellicampane, angelica, gentian, St. John's wort, betony, and the like.

With a low standard of professional education, even among the physicians, it was not to be expected that there would be much general intelligence on medical matters in the community at large. The credulity of the ignorant was remarkable. In England the touch of the royal monarch was considered to cure king's evil and scrofula. It is not strange, therefore, that some lingering faith in the absurd customs should crop out in New England. In the early days general complaint appears against the "shoemakers, Weavers, and Almanack makers . . . who have laid aside the proper Business of their Lives to turn Quacks."

In the early days of the Colony there had been excellent opportunities, in the treatment of disease, for successful imposition on the ignorant and unthinking, and the quacks were not slow in availing themselves of the opportunity. In the year 1649 a law was passed which is creditable to the wisdom of that time, in regulating, within certain limits, the practice of medicine and surgery. It was a salutary enactment, as far as it went, but it afforded only a slight protection against the deficiencies of the profession. The tendency of the law was to confine the profession to skilled persons. The enactment was as follows:—

“Chirurgions, Midwives, Physitians.” “Forasmuch as the law of God allowes no man to impaire the Life, or Limbs of any Person, but in a judicial way:—

“It is therefore Ordered, That no person or persons whatsoever, employed at any time about the bodyes of men, women or children, for preservation of life or health, as Chirurgions, Midwives, Physitians, or others, presume to exercise, or put forth any act contrary to the known approved Rules of art, in each mystery and occupation, nor exercise any force, violence or cruelty upon, or towards the body of any, whether young or old (no not in the most difficult and desperate cases) without the advice and consent of such as are skillfull in the same Art, (if such may be had) or at least some of the wisest and gravest then present, and consent of the patient or patients if they be mentis compotis, much less contrary to such advice and consent; upon such severe punishment as the nature of the fact may deserve, which Law nevertheless is not intended to discourage any from all lawfull use of their skill, but rather to incourage and direct them in the right use thereof, and inhibit and restreine the presumptuous arrogancy of such as through presidence of their own skill, or any other sinister aspects, dare boldly attempt to exercise any violence upon or towards the bodyes of young and old, one or other, to the prejudice or hazard of the life or limbe of man, woman or child.”

The early practitioners of medicine had a fondness for bleeding, and even until within a few years leeches were

generally used, and always kept on hand by apothecaries. The ministers used to bleed and pray in all severe cases. Then there were the barber surgeons, who wielded with equal facility the razor and the lancet, as well as used the jaw-breaking key on the aching teeth of their unfortunate customers.

Many of the early ministers also played the part of apothecary, buying drugs at wholesale and compounding and selling medicines to their parishioners. Small wonder that Cotton Mather, who was not the only kind-hearted New England minister who set up to heal the body as well as the soul of the entire town, called the union of physc and piety an "Angelical Conjunction."

It cannot be doubted that the early physicians brought with them many old-world medical superstitions, and there is no question but that they were more or less involved in the prevailing errors of the community in which they lived. But, on the whole, their record is a clean one, so far as we can get at it, and where it is questionable, we must remember that there must have been many poorly educated persons among them, and that all must have felt, to some extent, the influence of those sincere and devoted, but unsafe men, the physic-practising clergyman, who often used spiritual means as a substitute for temporal ones, and who looked upon a hysterical patient as possessed by the devil, and who treated a fractured skull by prayers and plasters.

DR. MICHAEL DWINELL.

On a little knoll on the western side of Salem street, in Topsfield, and a few feet north of the driveway leading to the present old Dwinell house, may still be seen the site of the house of Topsfield's first recorded physician, Michael Dwinell. At this point it may be well to mention the fact that Dr. Zerubbabel Endicott, son of Gov. John Endicott, who lived on his father's grant of 1639, which is now owned and occupied by Frank W. Killam, and situated in Boxford, on the Middleton road, a short distance beyond the town line, may have practiced here. He was connected with the Topsfield church, but was excom-

municated Dec. 24. 1693. He is frequently mentioned in records of that early day.

Michael Dwinell was born in Topsfield, December 5, 1670, the second of nine children and the oldest son of Michael and Mary Dwinell. His house was taxed as a dwelling until 1778, and afterwards was used as a barn. The old well is still in evidence.

Michael, the father, may have come from Scotland or Ireland, though family tradition says he came from France. He is supposed, by some, to have been in Topsfield about 1664, though some records have it that he was a French Huguenot who came to Topsfield "after the revocation of the Edict of Nantes in 1685," but his son Michael, the physician, was born in Topsfield in 1670, and by the church records it appears that "Michael Dunnell's" wife was in full communion in 1684. He is also recorded, under date of December 18, 1678, as having taken the "Oath of Allegiance and Fidelity." On October 24, 1672, he purchased from Francis Peabody, for £70, fifty acres of land "lyeing and being in Topsfield . . . on the South Syde of the River called Ipswich River . . . bounded in part by Salem line." In his will of June 29, 1710/11, he gives to his son Dr. Michael "all y^e parcell of Land abounding his house, as he hath improved for himself," and several pieces of meadow. This will was not probated till March, 1717/18, and under date of March 3, 1717/18, his children, beneficiaries under the will, Mary, Michael, Thomas, John and Joseph, regarding their father's will, deposed that "as he did among some other things dubious of exact meaning, we have mutually agreed to divide the land between us in a different manner."

Michael Dwinell, junior, is styled in old deeds as "physician and chirurgeon." What were his medical studies previous to his acquiring his title, are not known at this day. In 1697 he is spoken of as "Mikell Jr.," and not until 1724 does his name appear as Doctor Michael, when it is found in a deed given that year. He might have been studying his profession along the lines of hysteries, when, on March 1, 1691/2, he was on duty at Ipswich

jail, where he was to overlook Sarah Good, accused of witchcraft, it being recorded by the sheriff, "that night I sett a gaud to watch her at my own house, namely, Sam'l Braybrook, Michael Dunnell of Topsfield and Jonathan Baker."

It is of interest to read a letter from Dr. William Douglas of Boston, written in 1720, regarding fees. He writes: "I have here practice amongst four sorts of People; some families pay me five pounds per annum each for advice, sick or well, some few fee me as in Britain, but for the Native New Englanders I am obliged to keep a daybook of my consultations, advice and Visits, and bring them in a bill; others of the poorer sort I advise and visit without any expectation of fees."

Doctor Dwinell was married at least five times, and family tradition has increased the number to seven, for Esther Richards Dwinell, widow of John, who died Oct. 31, 1837, at the advanced age of 101 years 8 mos. 10 days, maintained that at different times Doctor Michael had seven wives, and when questioned as for which he felt the strongest affection, replied "that he knew no difference."

He married, first, Hannah ——. Her maiden name and the date of her marriage are not known. The children by this marriage were:

Thomas, born Oct. 3, 1693, married Mary Perkins.

Sarah, born June 20, 1697, married Abram Foster of Ipswich in 1718.

Mary, born April 25, 1702, married first, — Gott; after his death, Oct. 19, 1746, she married, second, Estes Peabody, who died Dec. 31, 1770, without issue. She died Feb. 15, 1772.

Michael, born Jan. 7, 1705/6, married Lucy Towne.

Stephen, born March 5, 1707/8, married Abigail Harris.

Hannah, born March 12, 1709/10, married Jan. 24, 1729, Joshua Bowere, or Bowery, of Marblehead.

Jacob, born Jan. 31, 1714/5, married Kesiah Gould.

Abigail, born Nov. 5, 1719, married Humphrey Deering of Arundel, Me.

He married, second, Dec. 10, 1724, Elisabeth Fisk of Wenham, who died Mar. 26, 1730. Their children were:

Benjamin, born Nov. 10, 1726; married Mary Easty.

Thomas, born Aug. 26, 1729.

He married, third, Elizabeth Cave, who died February, 1737. Their children were:

Samuel, baptized July 18, 1731.

Elizabeth, born Oct. 29, 1733.

On July 6, 1737, he married Charity Cotta of Salem, who died Nov. 8, 1752, and lastly, for his fifth wife, he married, Feb. 1, 1753, widow Mary Balch, "who died suddenly, a very aged woman, upwards of 90 years, April 14, 1774." He had died on December 24, 1761, aged 91 years.

His will, dated July 17, 1753, like that of his father, was signed with his seal and mark. It mentioned his wife Mary, to whom he gives "the use and income of all the lands," and also "one cow;" to his son Michael he leaves 5 shillings, to be paid in 7 years after his own and his wife's death; to his son Stephen, 5 shillings; his son Jacob 5 shillings; his granddaughter, Esther Balch, wife of David Balch, 5 shillings; son Benjamin, house and barn, and land and meadow in Topsfield, and all else, bonds, and books, debts, etc., to his wife. He also mentions his daughters, Sarah Foster, and Mary, Hannah, and Abigail. The inventory of his estate, presented Feb. 1, 1762, amounted to £145. Among other articles mentioned were: Sum Books, 5/1, Two Coats and One Great Coat.

Prior to the practice of Doctor Dwinell, and during his early years, Topsfield may have been served by the famous Doctor Oakes and Doctor Bullivant, both of Salem. John Dunton, the London bookseller, who visited New England in 1686, writes of these men as follows:—

"Dr. Oakes. He is an eminent physitian, and a religious man; at his first coming to a patient he persuades him to put his trust in God, the fountain of health; the want of this hath caused the bad success of most physicians, for they that won't acknowledge God in all their applications, God won't acknowledge them in that success which they might otherwise expect."

"Dr. Bullivant. He is so conversant with the great

variety of nature, that not a drug or simple escapes his knowledge, so that he never practices new experiments upon his patients, except it be in desperate cases, where death must be expelled by death. This also is praise-worthy in him, that to the poor he always prescribes cheap, but wholesome medicines, not curing them of a consumption in their bodies, and sending it into their purses, nor yet directing them to the East Indies to look for drugs, when they may have far better out of their gardens."

DR. AMOS DWINELL.

The second physician in Topsfield was Amos Dwinell, the ninth child of Thomas, who was a brother to Doctor Michael. He was born Mar. 19, 1721/2, the son of Thomas and Dinah (Brimsdill) Dwinell. She was of Lynn, they having married May 23, 1701. Amos was admitted to a full communion in the Topsfield church on Aug. 29, 1742. He married, May 26, 1749, Anna Perkins, at Rowley. There is no record of any children. Under date of April 16, 1748, in a deed of eight acres of land to Uzziel Rea, he styles himself "Amos Dwinell of Topsfield, Physitian." He witnessed a deed in Topsfield in 1746, and is called "physician and doctor." In the assessors' records for the years 1747-8-9, he is styled "Doctor." Just where he received his education is not known. His uncle, Doctor "Michaill," died Dec. 24, 1761, and it is quite probable that the nephew may have been taught by him. Where he practiced after he left Topsfield is not known, but in a letter written by John Adams, dated Oct. 21, 1798, and printed in Gage's History of Rowley, an Amos Dunnell is mentioned, but he is not listed with the regular physicians of Rowley. After his marriage, in 1749, he seems to have disappeared from this vicinity, and it is not known where he died. His father's will was dated June 21, 1747, and in it he bequeathed to Amos all his estate, "both Real and Personal in Topsfield, or anywhere else."

DR. JOSEPH BRADSTREET.

The third physician was Joseph Bradstreet, a grandson of Governor Simon Bradstreet. He was born May 13,

1727, and was the youngest son of Simon and Elizabeth (Capen) Bradstreet. She was the daughter of Rev. Joseph Capen of Topsfield. In a deed dated Oct. 17, 1749, from Joseph to his brother John, he styles himself "Joseph Bradstreet of Salem Village, Student in Physick." It was customary in those early days, as there were no medical schools in Massachusetts, to apprentice young men to some leading practitioner, and in due time the young man went forth with the master's certificate in his pocket, a full-fledged physician. Some obtained a license from the court to practice.

Joseph Bradstreet married, first, February 8, 1770, Abigail Fuller of Middleton. In the intention of marriage, Oct. 29, 1769, he is called "Dr. Joseph." A son Joseph was born in Topsfield on March 26, 1771. She was separated from him by act of the "Governor and Council of the Province of the Massachusetts Bay." October 17, 1771, and he was ordered to pay her £5 yearly, in "four equal quarterly payments." He married, second (published Nov. 16, 1783), widow Hannah Ross of Ipswich, and died in Topsfield Oct. 5, 1790, at the age of 63 years.

His practice did not require all his time, for under date of Sept. 28, 1756, the town of Topsfield voted to "abate the Rate Laid on Doct. Joseph Bradstreet in the year 1755, when he was Keeping School for the town." The town also allowed to Dr. Joseph Bradstreet "two Pounds Eight shillings for one months Keeping School in the year 1756." September 22, 1788, it was voted that "the town agree to Board Doct. Joseph Bradstreet During the time hee shall keep school to pay the town the sum of £3-15-2 which is due to the town from said Bradstreet." He died a pauper.

DR. RICHARD DEXTER.

"During the generation immediately preceding the Revolution the science of medicine in Massachusetts was making progress by slow and steady steps. The bond of union with the clerical profession existing from the earliest days of colonial life had been cut, and there was no longer any practical connection between the two callings.

Medicine had ceased to creep, and was now walking." During this period we find Dr. Richard Dexter practicing in Topsfield.

Doctor Dexter, who began his practice in Topsfield in 1740, and continued till his death, Nov. 25, 1783, was probably the first practitioner of the medical art in Topsfield who devoted his time exclusively to it. He was the son of John and Winnefred (Sprague) Dexter, and was born June 15, 1713, at Malden, Mass. He was of Irish descent, the Dexter family being closely identified with the history of Ireland from the beginning of the 12th century. Richard Dexter, the great grandfather of Doctor Dexter, "with his wife Bridget and three or more children, fled to England from the great Irish massacre of the Protestants, which commenced Oct. 27, 1641. What vessel he came over in is not known, but he was in Boston prior to Feb. 28, 1642, when he became an inhabitant." His father was John Dexter, who died in 1722, and who was for many years a deacon of the church and selectman of the town of Malden, Mass., and commanded a Company of Foot during the reign of George I, receiving his commission from Governor Samuel Shute in 1717. His mother, Winnefred Sprague of Malden, was born in 1673, and died in 1752. Her "reverend son," the Rev. Samuel Dexter of Dedham, says she "was a very pious woman, strictly religious, lived in the fear of God, and died strong in faith and full of comfort and joy."

On June 18, 1741, Doctor Dexter married Mehitabel Putnam, who was then living in Boxford, probably with her sisters, Mrs. Francis and Mrs. Thomas Perley. She was a sister of the heroic General Israel Putnam, and it is said she possessed many similar conspicuous traits of character to those of her brother. She was the daughter of Joseph and Elizabeth (Porter) Putnam. They had a daughter, Mehitabel, born Nov. 3, 1742, who married Rev. John Treadwell, and died July 3, 1786, at Ipswich. Mrs. Dexter died Sept. 2, 1801, aged 79 years. Doctor Dexter and his wife were admitted to full communion in the Topsfield church on Oct. 31st, 1742.

In writing of Doctor Dexter, the late Nehemiah Cleave-

land says "he had, I believe, the confidence of the people here, not only as a physician, but as a citizen." About 1742, he built as a residence, the house on lower Main Street, now known as the "Agricultural Farm House." It is said that Madam Dexter, who was a fine equestrienne, while the house was in process of construction, rode her horse into the second story by way of an inclined platform that was used in carrying the building supplies. It is also said that a detachment of troops returning from Arnold's Expedition against Quebec, camped under the large pine tree that stood in front of the house, until within a few years.

Doctor Dexter's education previous to his practice in Topsfield is problematical. The available literature of the profession was scanty, and for that reason easily mastered. The doctors had no knowledge of pathology, and but little of anatomy. It must not be forgotten that there were but very few regular graduates of medicine in the country for more than a hundred years after its settlement. In his time there were no medical schools in this country and few had the means or inclination for study abroad. Medical students were frequently "bound out, like apprentices, to their instructors, and were compelled to do all sorts of chores around the house and barn, as well as the professional drudgery. In those days the physicians used to buy their own drugs and prepare their own medicines, and it was the province of the students to pound the bark and spread the plasters, as well as to mix the ointments and make the pills. In short they were to be useful to their employers, as best they might in any way, whether in bleeding patients, pulling teeth, or attending to cases of minor surgery. Sometimes they boarded with their masters, being intimates of their families, and in some cases marrying the daughter of the house. It was customary for physicians in their daily rounds of practice to be accompanied by their scholars, in order to show them the different forms of disease, and to teach them the rules of diagnosis. On their return home the young men would sometimes undergo a form of questioning, which was considered an examination. In this way, with a certain

amount of medical reading, the main supply of doctors was kept up."

"They did not measure the drugs with the precision nowadays,—the asbestos stomachs and colossal minds of our forefathers were much above such petty minuteness." These lax directions accompany old prescriptions, and the patients some how followed them. The amount of medicine to be taken would be "the bighth of a walnut," or "enough to lie on a penknifes point," or "enough to cover a French coin," or "as bigg as a haslenut," or "as great as a charger," or "a pretty draught," and "a pretty bunch of herbs," but the most concise of all directions was when one was told to "take a pretty quantity as often as you please."

Cheerfully these public servants toiled over the hardest roads, in every season and in all weather, to attend rich and poor alike; the country doctor could not choose his patients if he would. A rigid standard of custom gave his services to all who needed them, fees being hardly considered when any one needed medical attendance.

The fees were very modest. Even in Boston, prior to 1782, the ordinary visit was charged at one shilling, six pence to two shillings. Half a dollar was only charged "such as were in high life." In the year 1782, a club of the leading physicians fixed the common fee at fifty cents, in consultation at one dollar, while night visits were doubled. Capital operations in surgery were at five pounds lawful money; medicines were charged at very high prices comparatively.

When the French Acadian family of Michael Dugoy were living in Topsfield, Doctor Dexter was their physician, and in 1759 he charged the town on their account for "13 professional visits, Hystarick pills and powders, 3 purges Stumatick mixer, blisters and purgative powders," all supplied for the magnificent sum of eighteen shillings. There was a Doctor Sawyer of Ipswich who attended this family, and there is a charge for the "French Doctor" amounting to £1. 4. 0. Where he came from is not known.

Tradition has said that Doctor Dexter had in his medi-

cal library, which was purchased intact by Dr. Nehemiah Cleveland, but two volumes, but the inventory of his estate shows "3 Large Books" valued at £1. 2, and "Books and Pamphlets" valued at £1. 16. 0. The inventory of his estate, which amounted to £1240 - 19 - 2, includes "Homestead and 37 acres, also 53 acres of land, Pew in the Meeting House, Riding chair, 2 Great Coats, 4 strait bodied Coats, 8 Jackets and 4 pair Breeches, 12 pair stockings, 1 Beaver Hat, 1 Wig and 1 Desk valued at £3, One large Bible £1, 3 large Books £1. 2, Books and pamphlets £1. 16. 0. Instruments £2. 14. 8, Brass Ink horn, 8s., Druggs and medicines, Bottles and phials containing the same £7. 6. 0. Case of Bottles with medicines £1. 10. 0." In the museum of the Essex Institute is preserved a silver mounted lancet case of shark's skin with the name "R. Dexter" engraved on one end. This case afterwards fell into the hands of Doctor Treadwell of Salem and from him it passed to Doctor Choate who gave it to the Institute.

His body rests in what is now Pine Grove Cemetery. The gravestone is inscribed as follows :

"Erected in memory of Doct. Richard Dexter ; who after a course of endearing services, of painful suffering,—supported by the hope which Christianity inspires,—cheerfully departed this life Nov. 25th, 1783, Aet. 71.

"Since deaths our certain lot be life improved in deeds of goodness, and the full pursuit of that which will not fail, a part in Christ. The hope and earnest of eternal bliss."

DR. DAVID NORWOOD.

For the years 1779 to 1782 inclusive, there is record of two doctors. The first of these was Dr. David Norwood, who was taxed in the year 1779, for poll, personal and real estate, "for Baker's Estate." The second was Dr. Caleb Rea, Jr. who was taxed for poll and personal in the years 1781-2. Dr. David Norwood was probably from Lynn, the son of Thomas Norwood, Jr., and born April 16, 1755. His mother was probably Lydia Hawkes. He married Aug. 19, 1778, at Newburyport, Elizabeth, daughter of Cornelius and Elizabeth (Giles) Tarbell. Doctor

Norwood and his wife must have come to Topsfield shortly after their marriage. Their one child Betsey, who married Samuel Prince of Manchester, was born in Topsfield, Dec. 21, 1779. Mrs. Norwood's parents "lived in Danvers until 1779, when they removed to Andover, and shortly after to Merrimack, N. H. Doctor Norwood must have removed with his wife's parents for the records of Merrimack, N. H. show that he was living there about 1780. On Feb. 5, 1781, "Caleb Rea of Topsfield,—physician, in consideration of one hundred pounds . . . paid me by David Norwood of Merrimack in the County of Hillsborough, New Hampshire, physician," transferred land in Danvers that he had purchased of Andrew and Mary Putnam on Nov. 7, 1780. On June 8, 1784, he conveyed to Joseph Leach 1-2 acre of land with dwelling house and barn, and is styled in the deed as David Norwood, "physician of Manchester." In 1794 he is recorded as having "labored excessively" during the "great sickness." He died in Manchester, Mass., May 26, 1808, aged 54 years. The inventory of his estate shows surgical instruments, Art of Surgery, and old books. He probably was the first surgeon who practiced in Topsfield.

DR. CALEB REA, JR.

Dr. Caleb Rea, Jr., was born in Danvers, March 8, 1758, and was the second son of Dr. Caleb and Ruth (Porter) Rea. The elder Dr. Caleb Rea served as surgeon in Col. Jona. Bagley's regiment in the war for the conquest of Canada, in the campaign of 1758, and was in the memorable expedition against Ticonderoga, and died in 1760 at Danvers.

On the 27th of May, 1775, Doctor Rea enlisted as a surgeon. His professional duties, according to family tradition, seem to have been principally on the privateers which were fitted out in Salem and Beverly. Towards the close of the war Doctor Rea was living in Topsfield, just where is not known, and then removed to Ipswich, where his eldest child, Thomas, was born July 11, 1782. Previous to October, 1783, Doctor Rea removed his family to Windham, Maine, for at that session of the Court

of General Sessions he was licensed to retail spirituous liquors in that town. His practice in Maine covered many adjoining towns. He died Dec. 29, 1796.

While living in Topsfield, Doctor Rea married, on Oct. 4, 1781, Sarah, daughter of Capt. John and Abigail (Blaney) White of Salem, Mass. Mrs. Rea died Jan. 22, 1836, aged 78 years. Their children were: Thomas, born July 11, 1782, in Ipswich; Sally, born Sept. 27, 1785, in Windham; Mary, born Apr. 14, 1787, in Windham; Caleb, born Apr. 11, 1789, in Windham; Porter, born July 19, 1792, in Windham; Albus, born Feb. —, 1795, in Windham, and was a doctor in Portland, Maine.

DR. NEHEMIAH CLEAVELAND.

In 1783, the year of Dr. Richard Dexter's death, two physicians, Nehemiah Cleaveland and John Merriam, settled in Topsfield. They were both young men, and from that time they divided between them the medical practice of the place, and often extended their visits into the neighboring towns.

Nehemiah Cleaveland was born Aug. 26, 1760, and was the youngest son of Rev. John and Mary (Dodge) Cleaveland of Ipswich. He married, first, Oct. 6, 1787, Lucy, daughter of Dr. John and Lucy (Bolles) Manning of Ipswich. She died June 6, 1791, aged 29 years, childless, and he married, second, Experience, daughter of Dr. Elisha and Tamarson (Kimball) (Coit) Lord, of Pomfret, Conn. They had nine children. Her sister, Alethea, married Rev. Asahel Huntington, pastor of the church in Topsfield from 1789 until 1813.

"Nehemiah Cleaveland, at the age of sixteen, was an attendant on his father during the siege of Boston, and afterward enlisted in 1777, and served for nearly twelve months. He saw service at West Point and in New Jersey, and was also at Ticonderoga. At the age of 21, being disappointed in earlier hopes of a college education, he entered on the study of medicine with his brother, Parker, Cleaveland, at Byfield, and later with Dr. John Manning of Ipswich. . . . He entered on practice in Topsfield in 1783, which was neither extensive or lucrative.



NEHEMIAH CLEAVELAND, M. D.

He soon received a commission as Justice of the Peace, an office of some distinction in those days, and was thus led to engage, to a certain extent, in concerns of a civic character. He became known and highly appreciated as a man of good judgment and prompt business habits, and was much employed in the public affairs of town and county." He served the town as selectman in 1801, 1802 and 1803, and from 1809 to 1812 inclusive. He was an ardent politician and was elected by the Federalists to serve as a State Senator in 1811 and 1812, and from 1815 to 1818 inclusive, and then refused longer to be a candidate. In 1814 he was made a session justice of the Circuit Court of Common Pleas, and from 1820 to 1822 he was Associate Justice of the Court of Sessions for Essex County, and the following year was appointed Chief Justice. He retired in 1828, and that year received the honorary degree of Doctor of Medicine from Harvard University. He was a Commissioner of the County for over twenty years.

One of the greatest service he rendered the town was the founding of the Topsfield Academy. He also was very prominent in the church of Topsfield, and the church records show that he was held in high regard when it is recorded "that the pastor shall be authorized to associate Dr. Cleaveland with himself in the examination of persons for the admission to the church in such cases as he may be in doubt about himself." Tradition says he was one of the three persons in Topsfield who subscribed to a newspaper; the other two copies being taken by Jacob Towne, Esq., and John and Nathaniel Averill. He was the first postmaster of Topsfield and the president of the Eastern Stage Company. He lived in a house on Main street, now occupied by Charles V. Jackman and considerably remodelled. This house was probably built by Jacob Robinson sometime prior to 1730, Dr. Cleaveland coming into possession about 1795. From Dr. Bentley's Diary, under date of Sept. 16, 1801, it appears that Doctor Cleaveland kept a tavern, for he records that "Dr. Cleveland of Topsfield has converted the mansion house of Porter into a very convenient tavern, below the meeting house in Topsfield."

"Doctor Cleaveland was just six feet in height. His form was erect, dignified, and commanding. Until past thirty he was spare and slender. He afterwards became corpulent, weighing at one time two hundred and sixty-five pounds. Yet such were the height and proportions of his frame that his corpulence never materially injured its symmetry.

"His health, until about fifty years old, was uncommonly firm, but after a severe sickness, he never regained his former firm health, and continued to be subject to attacks of severe pain and confinement, and scarcely ever rode without feeling more or less uneasiness. A sulkey, which he used constantly for the last twenty-five years, was the only vehicle which he could ride with tolerable comfort."

In practice he is described as cautious and careful, and as never undertaking difficult surgical operations. "He was punctual in attending to calls, and kind and cheerful in the sick room. He possessed in a high degree the qualities which ensure to the physician the confidence and attachment of his patients. Amid the strife of parties and the collision of rival interests, a man so decided and active could not be without opponents. These he had, and bitter ones."

The Boston Medical and Surgical Journal of June, 1839, says of Doctor Cleaveland: "During the fifty years of his practice in Topsfield, few days probably passed when his opinions or assistance were not sought in some matter aside from his profession. There are few occurrences or questions incident to common life in regard to which he had not formed an opinion or could not give judicious advice."

Dr. A. L. Peirson of Salem, writing of Doctor Cleaveland in the Medical and Surgical Journal, notes that "he was a much respected member of the Essex South District Medical Society. No man among us set a better example of professional integrity and honor. The few who could boast of his friendship will long remember with pleasure the virtuous and kind-hearted old man, whose influence was uniformly and efficiently exerted in

support of good order and the true advancement of society." He died Feb. 26, 1837, in his 77th year.

DR. JOHN MERRIAM.

Dr. John Merriam was the son of John and Sarah (Jones) Merriam and was born in Concord, Mass., Aug. 10, 1758 and removed to Topsfield in December, 1783. He studied medicine in Charlton, Mass., and married Hannah Jones of that town. He was licensed to practice by the Medical Association of Worcester County. On March 31, 1784, he bought the house now owned by Philip S. Palmer. Twelve years later he purchased land opposite his residence, and erected the two story house now standing at the junction of Haverhill and Ipswich streets. In the old house were born Doctor Merriam's three children: Royal Augustus Merriam, who was born Jan. 30, 1786, and was his father's successor in the practice of physic; Frederick Jones Merriam, born Dec. 8, 1788, who also lived in Topsfield; and Almira, born Jan. 25, 1791, who died unmarried in 1839 at her brother's home. Mrs. Merriam died in the new house Feb. 20, 1806, aged 43 years. On Sept. 18, 1808 Doctor Merriam married, second, Miss Mary Stiles of Topsfield. He died of consumption Nov. 21, 1817 at the age of 59 years. His widow Mary died at Boxford, Dec. 24, 1825, aged 62 years.

The only public office he held was that of selectman for the year 1787. He was an old time physician with a considerable practice. It is said of him that he "was well prepared for the work of his profession, as the times then were. His medical library was large for those days. From entries made in his own handwriting in books of his library, it would appear that his studies preparatory to the study of medicine were considerable, and that he had some knowledge of Latin. There is no word of his school days, but it may be presumed that he had the advantages that other young men enjoyed. He might have received instruction from an educated man, before taking up his medical studies. From what we learn of him, it is certain that he stood high as a medical practitioner and that he had the respect of his patrons and of the community in

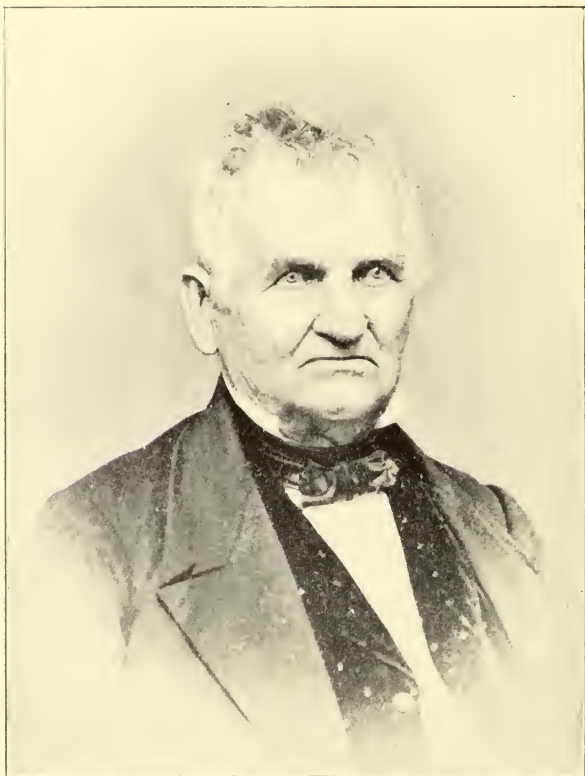
general. He had a large practice that extended into the adjoining towns. As was often the case, in those days with the country physician, he gave some attention to the cultivation of the land. He acquired property and left a considerable estate, and a name that has been handed down with respect."

In the year 1825, a Dr. Joseph Field was taxed for a poll. Nothing further can be found concerning him, and he must be considered as a wandering physician.

DR. JEREMIAH STONE.

Dr. Jeremiah Stone was born Nov. 2, 1798, in Marlborough, N. H. He began practice in Topsfield, Jan. 6, 1826, and continued for about twelve years. He was the son of Shubael and Polly (Rogers) Stone. Dr. Stone graduated at the Dartmouth Medical College in December, 1825, and came immediately to Topsfield. He was the first doctor in Topsfield who received his education at a Medical School. Finding that a country practice with it, long and tiresome drives was impairing his health, he removed to New Bedford and thence in 1864 to Provincetown, Mass., where he remained until his death April 23, 1875, with the exception of two years spent at Chatham, Mass. He was one of the incorporators of the Topsfield Academy, and was town treasurer for the year 1834. He married Feb. 28, 1828, Esther, daughter of Moses and Esther (Dwinell) Wildes. They had Esther Wildes, born Dec. 16, 1828; Moses Wildes, born July 7, 1836; and Susan Alzea, born February 28, 1834.

"In town affairs, he ever took an active interest, endeavoring to build up the place and render it truly prosperous. Foremost in all good movements, he cordially espoused the cause of anti-slavery in its earliest days, when it was unpopular to be an abolitionist. He was an ardent supporter of temperance, and an earnest worker in the Congregational church, of which he had been a member since 1814. He was an honorary member of the Massachusetts Medical Society, which he joined in 1831. He was intolerant of quackery in every form and strict in his views of professional etiquette. Prompt in decision and



ROYAL AUGUSTUS MERRIAM, M. D.

self-reliant in the emergencies of his profession, he inspired and retained confidence in his skill. Though often abrupt in his manners, yet beneath was a warm heart that beat in sympathy with the needy and oppressed. Earnest in his convictions, decided in his opinions and cheerful in his disposition, he carried the elasticity of youth into the last years of his advanced life. Tall and erect, of powerful presence, he inspired with hope the sick who sought his aid. To a naturally buoyant spirit was added the sustaining power of a strong and earnest religious faith that made belief to him a bright and clear reality."

DR. JOSEPH CUMMINGS BATCHELDER.

Dr. Joseph Cummings Batchelder succeeded Doctor Stone about 1838. He was born in Topsfield, May 10, 1809, and was the son of Capt. Jacob and Mary (Cummings) Batchelder. He married Nov. 9, 1837, Anna Wellington, who was born June 9, 1816, the daughter of Rev. Charles Wellington of Templeton, Mass. He began practice in Lynn, after having studied medicine with Dr. J. W. D. Osgood of Templeton, and remained there for less than two years when he removed to Topsfield and stayed till 1850, going then to Cambridge, Mass., where he practised for seven years, and from 1857 till his death April 26, 1885 he practised in Templeton. He was a member of the legislature from Topsfield in 1846 and served as assistant surgeon, from Mar. 1, 1862 to August, 1862, in the 25th Massachusetts Volunteers, in North Carolina. In 1843 he built the two story house on Main street now owned and occupied by Merrill B. Bailey. He became a member of the Massachusetts Medical Society in 1838. Mrs. Batchelder died in Templeton, of pneumonia, April 26, 1885. They had three daughters.

DR. ROYAL AUGUSTUS MERRIAM.

Dr. Royal Augustus Merriam,* the son of Dr. John and Hannah (Jones) Merriam, was the next physician. He was born Jan. 30, 1786, and entering Dartmouth College was graduated in 1808. He studied medicine at the Dartmouth Medical School, and received his degree of

*See Topsfield Historical Collections, Vol. 4, p. 120.

M. B. in 1811, and M. D. in 1820. In 1832, he became a member of the Mass. Medical Society. In January, 1812, he commenced the practice of medicine in Middleton, where he met with considerable success, especially in cases of typhoid fever. The next year he returned to Topsfield. His short stay in Middleton is easily accounted for by the fact that his father was in failing health, and had been somewhat of an invalid for several years. Here he continued in the practice of his profession from 1813 to 1823, when, looking for a larger field of action, he went to Marblehead where he established himself and remained nine years. Returning to his native town in 1832, he occupied the house on Main street where he afterward lived. "His library was large and well supplied with the standard works. Surgery was his specialty." Doctor Merriam married Mar. 12, 1839, at Newburyport, Adeline, born Mar. 20, 1806, daughter of Nathaniel Marsh of Newburyport. Their children were: Sidney Augustus, born Mar. 11, 1841, who studied medicine and was graduated from Dartmouth College in 1861; and Arthur Marsh, who was born April 12, 1843.

Doctor Merriam "was interested in public affairs, and was active as a public man, holding offices of trust in the town, and as a member of associations, industrial, philanthropic, and social. He was often called to serve the town, probably no citizen more often, in various trusts. He held the offices of Selectman, Overseer of the Poor, School Teacher, member of the School Committee and Superintendent of Schools, and was selected to serve on committees in the more important crises of town affairs. He was elected for twenty-two years a member of the School Committee, and probably always was its chairman, excepting when he served as Superintendent." He was a magistrate of the town, an incorporator of the Academy, and was a member of the Essex Agricultural Society from 1821. He died Nov. 13, 1864.

During a part of the time of Doctor Merriam's practice in Topsfield, Dr. George Whitefield Sawyer of Boxford was in friendly competition with him. Doctor Sawyer was born in Ipswich in 1770, and married Polly Killam of Middleton in 1800. He subsequently settled in Box-

ford as a physician, on the farm known as the "Sawyer farm," on the road to Middleton, near the present residence of Frank W. Killam. "He was acknowledged to be a good physician for the times; and his natural bluntness of speech oftentimes amused his patients. After honoring his profession for many years by a life of integrity and trust, he died March 23, 1855, at the age of 85 years."

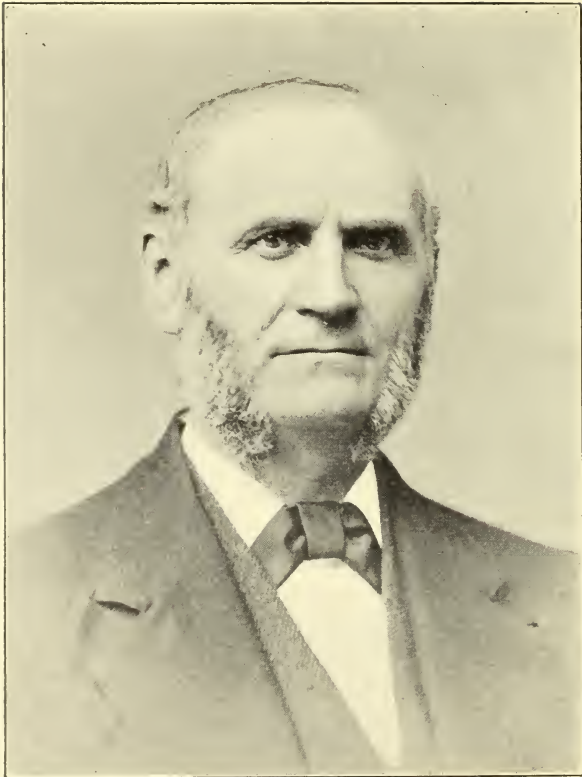
DR. CHARLES PARKER FRENCH.

After Doctor Merriam was well along in years, other physicians came to Topsfield. The first of these was Dr. Charles Parker French, who was born Nov. 27, 1823, in Lyndeborough, N. H., the son of Isaac P. and Clarissa (Barnes) French. He was graduated at Dartmouth College in 1847, and came to Boxford, and "secured board with the late Major William Lowe, and commenced practice there in 1848." He continued his practice in Boxford for nearly two years, and in 1849 came to Topsfield. During the years 1850 and 1851, he lived in the old "Shepard house," which formerly stood just beyond the present residence of Augustus W. Smith. Doctor French married, May 1, 1850, Mary S., daughter of Oliver T. and Sarah A. (Towne) Peabody of Boxford. She died Feb. 10, 1871, in Denver, Colo. He was a large, fleshy man, and was "much liked for his humorous disposition. His medical knowledge was deemed sufficient for good practice." He remained in Topsfield four years, and, in May, 1854, went to Virden, Illinois, afterwards moving to Denver, Colorado, where he died Feb. 23, 1904. He became a member of the Massachusetts Medical Society in 1852.

DR. DAVID CHOATE.

The next physician was Dr. David Choate, son of David and Elizabeth (Wade) Choate, who was born in Essex, Mass., Nov. 27, 1828. He married, Jan. 1, 1856, Susan Elizabeth, daughter of Philip and Susan (Stanley) Kimball, who was born in Ipswich Feb. 24, 1829, and died in Salem, Mass. They had two children: Helen Stanley, born Feb. 5, 1858; and Susan Elizabeth, born Sept. 29, 1862.

Doctor Choate was educated in the schools of his native town and at Phillips Academy, Andover. He commenced the study of medicine with Prof. Dixie Crosby, M. D., of the Dartmouth Medical College, and subsequently entered the Harvard Medical School, from which he was graduated in 1854. When attending his last lectures, Dr. Choate Burnham of Hamilton, Mass., urged him to settle in Hamilton. He practiced in that town from October, 1853, to April, 1854, going back and forth on the train to his studies at Boston. While in Hamilton, William Cleaveland and John Wright of Topsfield called and urged him to come to Topsfield, as Doctor French was planning to go to Illinois, and Doctor Batchelder having gone to Templeton, Topsfield had only Dr. R. A. Merriam, who, although well advanced in years and retired from active practice, still gave his assistance in troublesome cases, which he continued to do till his death. Doctor Choate accordingly went to Topsfield in April, 1854, and boarded with Mr. and Mrs. Humphrey Balch. Doctor Choate occupied one of the front rooms as an office. He had an ordinary carriage at first, but thinking a gig better suited for his practice in Middleton, Boxford and Linebrook, he had one built for him by Thomas K. Leach, the Topsfield wheelwright. After his marriage in 1856, he moved into the house yet standing on the corner of Main and Summer streets, and now owned by Mrs. Ephraim Peabody. He frequently called into consultation Dr. Cox of Salem, who, after a time, urged him to settle in that city. Although Doctor Choate liked Topsfield, and the citizens were highly satisfied with his professional services, yet he was unused to the hardships suffered during the winter season while on long drives, and so welcomed a chance to go to Salem, removing there in June, 1857. At this time he charged seventy-five cents a visit for calls in Topsfield, and also often went to Boxford for that sum. After he had decided to leave Topsfield, the citizens offered him an increase of 25% on the charge for his visits as an inducement to remain. Doctor Choate had many applicants for his practice, finally selling to Dr. Justin Allen of Hamilton. He still lives in Salem,



JUSTIN ALLEN, M. D.

where "he has had a very extensive practice, and by his kindness, his professional skill and fidelity, he has gained a strong hold upon and a warm place in the hearts of those in whose families he had visited. Dr. Choate is a most indefatigable worker, and cheerfully responds to many calls, day or night, when he knows there will be no financial remuneration. He is known as the 'Beloved Physician.'" He became a member of the Massachusetts Medical Society in 1853, and is a member of the Essex South District Medical Society. He is a member of the Essex Congregational Club, and for thirty-four years has been a deacon of the Tabernacle Congregational Church of Salem. He has served on the School Board. During the Civil War he was examining surgeon for volunteers and drafted men, and from 1863 to 1869 was examining surgeon for pensions. He was on the staff of the Salem Hospital for fourteen years following its organization. He lives on Norman street in Salem.

DR. JUSTIN ALLEN.

Dr. Justin Allen* was born in Hamilton, Mass., Sept. 29, 1826, and was the son of Ezekiel and Sally (Roberts) Allen. After attending the schools of his native town, he studied at Williston Seminary, East Hampton, Mass., 1845-6, and in 1847 was enrolled at Rockingham Academy, Hampton Falls, N. H., and at Hampton Academy. In the year 1848 he was again at Williston Seminary, and in 1849-1850, was back at Hampton Academy. Entering Dartmouth College, he left in the spring of 1851, and continued his studies at Brown University, graduating from that institution with an A. B. in 1852. In 1853-1854 he attended lectures at the Berkshire Medical Institute, and in 1855 the medical lectures at the Tremont Medical School. In 1856 he received the degree of M. D. at Harvard, and in June, 1857, came to Topsfield, buying the practice of Dr. David Choate. He continued his practice here and in the neighboring towns till 1894, when he retired from active professional work, enjoying in the next few years several trips abroad. He died, unmarried, Nov. 5, 1908, aged 82 years.

*See Topsfield Historical Collections, Vol. 14, page 148.

When he first came to Topsfield he lived in the house now owned and occupied by Henry H. Roberts, afterwards removing to the house on Main street now owned by John H. Towne, where he lived eighteen years, then removing to the George P. Dow house at the corner of Main and Prospect streets, and lastly moving into the adjoining house, which he had purchased and where he lived till his death. He became a member of the Massachusetts Medical Society in 1859, retiring as an active member in 1892. He was the first President of the Topsfield Historical Society, and continued as such until his death.

DR. WILLIAM DUDLEY HILL.

Early in 1881, Dr. William Dudley Hill, a native of Lebanon, Maine, settled in Topsfield. He was born in 1858, the son of Orrin T. and Mary E. (Foss) Hill, and married, June 1, 1881, at Kingston, N. H., Kitty Hartwell Pearson, born in New Bedford, Mass., daughter of Mark R. and Kate (Hartwell) Pearson. Doctor Hill was graduated from the medical department of the University of Vermont in 1879. He lived in the house on School avenue now owned by Alphonso T. Merrill, but remained in Topsfield only a few years, removing to Paterson, N. J., then to Maryland, or Virginia, and to New Hampshire, where he conducted a sanitarium, and is still living. He also practiced dentistry, having a chair in the press-room now occupied by A. T. Merrill.

DR. GEORGE MERRILL RANDALL.

Dr. George Merrill Randall came to Topsfield, Oct. 22, 1889, and was associated with Dr. Justin Allen. He was born at Vassalboro, Maine, Mar. 20, 1863, and was the son of George LeBarron Randall, a native of Barnstable, Mass., (who received the degree of M. D. at Maine Medical School, Bowdoin College, in 1842, and practised in Maine for thirty years), and Caroline Matilda (Sturgis) Randall, who was a native of Maine. Doctor Randall received the degree of M. D. at the Maine Medical School, Bowdoin College, in 1889, and later went to the Boston City Hospital where he was Surgical House Officer. After selling his practice in Topsfield he went to Augusta, Me.,

where he practiced for seven years, and contracted pulmonary tuberculosis which sent him into the mountains of California for one year. After regaining his health he returned to Augusta and practiced five years, and then removed to Lowell, Mass., where he is now located. He holds a commission as 1st Lieutenant in the Medical Reserve Corps, U. S. A. He married June 7, 1893, Alice Martha Hawes, daughter of Isaiah and Lucy (Hatch) Hawes. They have no children.

DR. THOMAS LINCOLN JENKINS.

Dr. Randall sold his practice to Dr. Thomas Lincoln Jenkins, who was born Oct. 10, 1866, in Chelsea, Mass., the son of Loyal Lovejoy, of Portsmouth, N. H. and Mary Jane (Norton) Jenkins, a native of Addison, Maine. He married June 18, 1902, Lucy Maud Garbutt of Revere, Mass., daughter of Andrew and Lucy Ann (Dunderdale) Garbutt. They have one child, Mary Lucy Jenkins, born May 10, 1908. Doctor Jenkins, after graduating from the Revere public schools, and the Charlestown High School, attended the Harvard Medical School, graduating in the class of 1890. On November 1, 1890 he came to Topsfield. In 1891, he became a member of the Massachusetts Medical Society. He was Assistant Surgeon in the 8th Mass. Inf. U. S. Vols. in the Spanish-American War and is now Major and Surgeon of the 2nd Brigade, Mass. Vol. Militia.

DR. BYRON SANBORN.

Dr. Byron Sanborn, the son of James Stanlius and Mary Ella (Yeaw) Sanborn, was born in Loudon Centre, N. H., August 13, 1874. He was graduated with the degree of A. B. from Dartmouth College in 1897, and from Dartmouth Medical School in February, 1900, he received the degree of M. D. After studying in Boston and New York Hospitals he came to Topsfield, Sept. 28, 1901. In 1909 he became a member of the Massachusetts Medical Society and also the American Medical Society. On Sept. 25, 1901, he married Mary Rebecca, daughter of Edward Pickering and Emma (Glover) Leavitt of Concord, N. H. They have one child, Victor Paul, born August 2, 1903.

NATIVES OF TOPSFIELD WHO BECAME
PHYSICIANS BUT PRACTICED
ELSEWHERE.

DR. NATHANIEL BRADSTREET.

Dr. Nathaniel Bradstreet,* the son of Henry and Abigail (Porter) Bradstreet, was born in Topsfield, Oct. 4, 1771. He was fitted for college by Rev. Asahel Huntington, and entered Dartmouth College in 1791, but after remaining there a year, he entered Harvard from which college he was graduated in 1795, afterwards studying medicine with Dr. James Thacher of Plymouth and Dr. E. A. Holyoke of Salem. In the autumn of 1798, he was appointed chief surgeon of the sloop-of-war Merrimac, Moses Brown of Newburyport, captain, and made several voyages to the West Indies in that vessel. In February, 1800 he resigned his commission and shortly afterward commenced the practice of medicine in Newburyport where he continued till his death. He became prominent in his profession and was highly esteemed as a physician and surgeon. At the time of his death he was a Councillor of the Massachusetts Medical Society. He died at Newburyport Oct. 6, 1828. He married Mary Crombie by whom he had eight children.

DR. ISRAEL BALCH.

Dr. Israel Balch, the son of David, 3d and Sarah (Peabody) Balch, was born in Topsfield Sept. 14, 1788. He fitted for college with the Rev. Asahel Huntington, entering Dartmouth when he was eighteen years old. "He received no aid from his father to defray his educational expenses. His grandfather Peabody made him a present of \$450 which was all the pecuniary aid he had, that he did not earn himself." He was graduated in the class of 1811. After graduating, he taught school a year in Topsfield, and a year and a half in the Academy at Amesbury. After studying medicine with Dr. Nathan Smith of Hanover, N. H. and three years with Doctor French of Amesbury, he

*See also Cleaveland's Bicentennial Address. Appendix 9; and Topsfield Historical Collections, Vol. 12, page 143.

began to practice in Salisbury, in 1814, and continued till 1820, when he removed to Amesbury, where he resided and practiced, until his death July 7, 1858. He was married at Amesbury in 1814, to Miss Nancy Goodwin, who was born Oct. 12, 1793 and died at Amesbury in 1865. They had four children : Mara, born July 20, 1816 ; died unmarried, Aug. 29, 1895 ; Israel, born July 20, 1817, died May 20, 1821 ; Israel Daniel Perkins, born June 18, 1822 ; and David Lowell Dearborn, born Oct. 13, 1828.

"He was a very successful practitioner of medicine and surgery. For seven years he was surgeon of a regiment. He had the largest medical library in Amesbury or vicinity. Many young men sought his office for instruction in medicine and surgery, navigation and higher mathematics. He wrote and delivered several lectures on scientific subjects. He was gifted with a strong scientific mind. He took out several patents and made some very peculiar clocks. In contriving and manufacturing surgical instruments, he exhibited much ingenuity. He was a strong advocate of temperance and a firm abolitionist."

DR. JOSIAH LAMSON.

Dr. Josiah Lamson, the son of Josiah and Marcy (or Mercy) (Perkins) Lamson, was born in Topsfield, Aug. 15, 1789. He was fitted for college at Bradford and Dummer Academies, his preceptor at the latter school being Benjamin Allen, LL. D. In 1814 he was graduated at Harvard College. The following three years he spent in the study of medicine with Thomas Kittredge, M. D. of Andover, Mass. He also attended the medical lectures of the Harvard College Medical School in 1816 and 1817, and in the autumn of 1817 received the degree of M. D. from the Censors of the Massachusetts Medical Society. Soon after he was invited to Chebacco (now Essex) by a committee of the parish, and began the practice of medicine there in 1818, and continued until March, 1861. He married, first, Sept. 9, 1824 Rebecca Sargent, who died Mar. 22, 1837, aged thirty years. On April 30, 1839, he married, second, Betsy Dodge. He had two children : Alvin and Mary J., and died April 16, 1870, greatly respected.

DR. ELISHA HUNTINGTON.

Dr. Elisha Huntington, the son of Rev. Asabel and Althea (Lord*) Huntington, was born in Topsfield, Apr. 9, 1796. He was fitted for college under the direction of his father, who for nearly twenty-five years, was the devout and faithful minister of Topsfield and who made it a part of his occupation to fit young men for college. He entered Dartmouth College at the age of fifteen, and was graduated in the class of 1815. He studied medicine with Doctor Bradstreet of Newburyport, and attended medical lectures at Yale College, taking his degree in 1823. In 1824 he went to Lowell, Mass., and entered at once upon a career of professional and official duties such as it is rarely the fortune of one man to experience. He was eminent as a physician and enjoyed a large practice. While Lowell was yet a town, he served two years as a member of the school committee. After its incorporation as a city he served three years as a member of the Common Council and two terms of two years each as a member of the school committee. He was three times elected as Alderman, and in 1839, during his second year as president of the Common Council, he was elected to fill the office of Mayor, made vacant by the death of Hon. Luther Lawrence only a few weeks after entering upon his second term of office. He was re-elected to fill that office in 1839, 1840, 41, 44, 45, 52, 56, 57, 58. In 1853 he was elected Lieutenant-Governor of Massachusetts. For two years he was president of the Massachusetts Medical Society, and also for two years served as president of the District Medical Society, having held all the minor offices of that society. He was a most active member of the Middlesex Mechanics Association, and was chairman of the lecture committee for several years. He married May 31, 1825, Hannah Hinckley, daughter of Joseph and Deborah (Freeman) Hinckley of Marblehead, Mass. She died Sept. 19, 1859. Dr. Huntington died Dec. 13, 1865. Their children were : James Freeman, born Sept. 6, 1826, married May 30, 1848, Ellen Sophrona Whipple; Francis

*She was the daughter of Dr. Elisha Lord of Pomfret, Conn., a distinguished physician.

Cleaveland, born June 3, 1831; Mary Hinckley, born Sept. 3, 1838, married Feb. 6, 1861, Josiah Parsons Cooke Jr., Professor of Chemistry and Mineralogy, Harvard University; Isaac Mansfield, born Dec. 15, 1836, died Oct. 12, 1837; William Reed, born Sept. 20, 1838.

DR. HUMPHREY GOULD.

Dr. Humphrey Gould, the son of Zaccheus, jr. and Anna (Brown) Gould, was born in Topsfield, July 3, 1797. Doctor Gould, after graduating at Williams College established himself at Danvers, and after remaining a short time, removed to Rowe, Mass., where for about fifty years he was an honored and influential member of the community—a type of the “beloved physician.” He was in close social relations with most of the leading professional men in Western Massachusetts and was “universally respected and esteemed, alike for his high moral tone, his extensive knowledge, retentive memory and sound judgment.”

He married June 11, 1827, Electa Haynes, who was born June 5, 1800 and died Aug. 12, 1878. Doctor Gould died Oct. 8, 1874. Their children were: Electa Haynes, born Aug. 15, 1828, married, 1854, Wm. A. Hicks; Hannah, born Dec. 18, 1836, married, 1863, Edw. Wright, and died in 1875.

DR. JOHN AUGUSTUS LAMSON.

Dr. John Augustus Lamson, the son of John and Priscilla (Averill) Lamson, was born in Topsfield, March 3, 1831. His early education was received in the local schools, and Phillips Academy, Andover Mass. In 1853 he was graduated from Dartmouth College, and began the study of medicine with the late Charles Haddock, M. D. of Beverly, Mass., then entered the Boylston and Tremont Medical Schools, Boston. He was graduated March 12, 1856, from the medical department of Harvard University. Immediately on receiving his medical degree, he was appointed one of the physicians of the “Boston Dispensary,” which office he held for three years. In 1861 he was appointed Examiner for Volunteers by Surgeon-General Dale.

In 1862 he was appointed surgeon of the 42d Regiment Massachusetts Volunteers, and went into camp, but resigned his commission before the regiment left for the seat of war on account of impaired health from the exposure of camp life. (All the officers and three companies of this regiment were captured on arriving at Galveston, Texas, and the surgeon who was Dr. Lamson's successor was held in close confinement till released by death.) He was immediately re-appointed by Surgeon-General Dale as Examiner for Volunteers. In 1863 he was appointed Assistant Examining Surgeon under the "Conscription Act." This office he held until the end of the "draft." During the war he examined, of volunteers, conscripts and substitutes, more than 12,000 men. In September, 1863, he was appointed the physician, chief in charge, of the "Discharged Soldiers' Home," from which he resigned four years later.

He was a member of the Boston School Board ten years, ending 1871, in which year he was elected a member of the Legislature, and re-elected the following year, representing the wealthiest ward of the city. The year 1873 he spent in European travel, visiting many of the hospitals in London, Dublin, Vienna, Paris and Berlin, and then extended his trip to Constantinople and the East. In 1880 he was appointed Chief Medical Examiner of the "Equitable Life Assurance Society," for Boston and Eastern Massachusetts. He retired from general practice in 1893. On Oct. 18, 1876, he married Mary Elizabeth Whitcher of Milton, Mass., the daughter of Hon. Joseph Batchelder and Barbara Ann (Horton) Whitcher.

DR. CHARLES TREADWELL ISRAEL REA.

Dr. Charles Treadwell Israel Rea, son of Israel and Eliza Ann M. (Whitcomb) Rea, was born in Topsfield, Dec. 10, 1835. He entered the Harvard Medical School in 1856 remaining there three years, and graduating in 1859 from Jefferson Medical College, Philadelphia. He first practised at Manchester, Mass. for two years and then removed to San Francisco, Cal., where he has since resided. He married Martha R., daughter of Dr. Asa Story of Manchester, Mass., by whom he had no children.

DR. GEORGE WILLIAM PERKINS.

Dr. George William Perkins, the son of Caleb Kimball and Mary Lucinda (Peabody) Perkins, was born in Topsfield, Jan. 6, 1860 ; fitted for college at Phillips Exeter Academy ; was admitted to Harvard College June 30, 1879 and passed the year 1879-80 with the class of 1883 as a freshman. He skipped the sophomore year, and joined the class of 1882, as a junior in the fall of 1880, and graduated with the class. The first two years after graduation he held the position of assistant in biology at Harvard, and at the same time pursued his studies at the Harvard Medical School till June, 1885 ; in 1886 receiving the degree of M. D. On June 1, 1885 he was appointed for the usual term of eighteen months a member of the house staff on the surgical side of the Boston City Hospital, and at the conclusion of this service he accepted a position as division surgeon in the medical department of the Union Pacific Railway, with headquarters at Ogden, Utah. He spent two months at Denver to familiarize himself with railway medical work, reaching Ogden in September, 1886 where he resided till his death Nov. 18, 1908.

He had charge of the Company's Hospital, located at Ogden, for the western district of the Medical Department which comprised about fifteen hundred miles of the Union Pacific System in Wyoming, Idaho, Montana, Oregon and Utah, along which are scattered several assistant surgeons who send all serious cases of injury or sickness to Ogden for treatment. He was also surgeon for the Southern Pacific Railway at Ogden. In addition to his railway work and private practice he did a large amount of consultation and operative surgical work for other doctors. He was president of the Utah State Medical Society and a vice-president of the Harvard Medical Alumni Association.

He married at Worcester, Mass., Sept. 20, 1887, Nellie A. Dunton. Their children were : William Albert, born March 30, 1889 ; George Leslie, born April 1, 1890, died April, 1909 ; Helen, born April 18, 1893 ; Arthur, born June 14, 1895.

EARLY TOPSFIELD SCHOOL REPORTS.

A PAPER READ BEFORE THE TOPSFIELD HISTORICAL
SOCIETY AT A MEETING HELD MARCH 4, 1898.

BY GEORGE FRANCIS DOW.

The first printed report of the school committee issued by the town of Topsfield, was for the year ending March, 1839. This was in accordance with statute provision recently enacted. Dr. Royal A. Merriam was chairman of the committee and probably prepared the report.

After introductory explanation, appears the following :
"The Committee have endeavored to follow the statute as nearly as circumstances would allow, by visiting and exercising such supervision as the law enjoins. In these visits the majority of the Committee have been present at the commencement and close of each school and once or more about the middle of each term, as were between three and four months in length, making their visits about once a month. The town, not districted, maintained four Schools from six to eight months each in the year, at an expense of five hundred dollars for the whole. The branches taught are Reading, Writing, Spelling, Defining, Geography, Arithmetic, Grammar, History, and Philosophy."

The "Summer Schools" were taught by "females," and the committee state that "no complaints of dissatisfaction" have come to their knowledge. The schools, four in number, were taught by Misses Ruth Batchelder, Mary P. Lamson, Harriet Towne and Mary P. Towne, all natives of the town. Emerson Gould taught the winter term at the Centre school which "was not so fully attended as in years previous, there being a private Female School kept in the vicinity." "There was no marring or injury done to the buildings, not even a pane of glass broken for the Winter."

The term was sixteen weeks ; whole number of scholars 79, with an average attendance of 56. The North school was kept by Nehemiah Cleaveland Bradstreet and the East school by Seabury T. Witt, "a gentleman whose literary and moral qualifications were undoubted," but who proved not to be a success as "there was a failure in a perfect control over the school." John G. Hood presided over the exercises at the South school which "excelled in writing." "The several schools have been provided with a Black-board, almost a *sine qua non* in every school. Indeed, there are few schools at this day without one; they are considered indispensable." "A few new books have been furnished at the expense of the town, to the amount of six or eight dollars." The committee suggested the propriety of engaging a "Female Teacher" for the Centre school, to aid the "Male Teacher" when the attendance should exceed fifty scholars, and they also recommended that more money be expended on the summer schools as they were then more largely attended than in the winter.

The report for the succeeding year is well written and probably was from the pen of J. C. Batchelder. The duties of parents were discussed and one paragraph reads as follows: "A few words concerning the policy of locating school houses in bye and unpleasant places, would not be inopportune. Children are beings prone to observation, and are not so insensible to the 'sublime and beautiful' as many seem to imagine; neither are they wanting in attention to personal comfort and convenience. Every one may perceive that a warm, pleasant and well furnished room has more attractions than one of an opposite character, and from a knowledge of this fact it is desirable that more regard should be had to the situation and condition of school houses. Every house should have a play ground in its immediate vicinity, and much more attention should be bestowed on the orderly arrangement and finish of school rooms; in fine, a little care and expense would soften the too often repulsive aspect of our school houses, which in their present condition have a very slight resemblance to Minerva's Temple of the Sciences."

"The North School, under the direction of Mr. Robert Gould, like the times, appeared to be 'sadly out of joint.' Very little dependence could be placed on the children's attendance. A majority of them made their appearance or not, as circumstances favored or opposed; and until parents awake to a sense of duty to their children, the best regulated efforts of the teacher cannot be successful."

The report for the year of 1840-41 was, in the main, a philosophical oration on life and morals. Little information is given as to the progress made in the several schools during the year, but the school buildings are held up for inspection. "Our school houses can hardly escape the well merited term of *nuisance*; the inhabitants all lament their condition, but nothing is done to improve them. It is the deliberate opinion of your committee, that not one of them is suitable for the use to which they are appropriated—in execrable repair, badly situated, gloomy, dirty and old. Few are there among us who can point to our temples of learning and exclaim, in the language of the Roman matron, 'these are our jewels.'"

For some reason, perhaps expense, no report was printed for the succeeding year, but the year following, 1842-3, is particularly complete, showing the date of each visit made to each school with the conditions existing. On July 15, the scholars at the Centre school were found to be "in rather a languid state." The report fails to state what the temperature was at that time, but probably the Farmer's Almanac for that year did not read, "about this time expect snow." August 14th the scholars at the Centre school were "censured for idleness and disorder." The whole number of scholars attending at this time was 79 and the teacher was paid the munificent sum of \$10.25 per month. The committee decided that the erection of a new meeting house in the immediate vicinity of the school house "ought to be considered an extenuating circumstance" in the matter of disorder in the school, but the opinion is expressed that the "disposition of the teacher was too amiable and indulgent" and she was "better qualified to be an usher than a principal in a large school." During the winter term, which was taught by Humphry

Balch, the whole attendance was one hundred—but the average attendance was much below owing to the opening of the Topsfield Academy under Edmund F. Slafter. School libraries were introduced into the various schools this year and the committee suggested bringing all the schools together on examination day, advocating the plan as a stimulus to greater effort among the scholars.

During the winter term at the South school, two of the larger boys headed a rebellion against the teacher, of which the report gives an extended account saying that "glass was broken and some loss of hair suffered." The boys were suspended but the infection spread through the neighborhood and after several conferences between the parents and the school committee, the matter was taken before the town at the annual meeting where, in the language of the report, it "was very justly frowned upon and the article passed over." The complainants charged that improper modes of punishment were used by the teacher, such as striking the head with a bound book, pulling the hair and ears, etc. The report of the committee says, "as to the bound book weapon, if we approve of any corporal punishment, one would not think that a package of paper wrapped up in a piece of sheepskin to be a very deadly weapon; we think we have heard of paper bullets not being very fatal to the enemy. Nor are the hair and ears a very vital part of the human system." The report also notes that various citizens have considered that "the affair of School Committee was a money making business." Whereupon a summary of work performed is appended, which included examination of the qualifications of teachers, supervision of schools and studies the making of an annual report in detail with a return to the Commonwealth, a census of children between the ages of four and sixteen, and monthly visitations of each school. The chairman performed the greater part of this work and also supplied stationery and for the previous seven years had received from the town a total of \$39.50, an unanswerable statement.

"The duty our children owe to God and themselves, or morality and religion, without sectarian and denomina-

national distinction, should be an important item of education in our schools." So says Richard Phillips, jr. in his report for the year 1843-4, which occupies eighteen closely printed pages and displays complacent erudition combined with a happy commendation of both teachers and scholars. According to the report, the schools were in a highly flourishing condition. The establishment of a high school to be opened only in the winter was advocated.

The following year Charles Herrick was chairman. Nothing other than ordinary was noted in the report save the fact that a new school house soon was to be built in the North district and the recommendation made that the new building be located on some different site. Of the one hundred and ten scholars who attended the Centre school, twenty-three are mentioned as being but four years of age. The new Centre school house erected in the fall of 1844 is mentioned and spoken of as well adapted to the wants of the district. The expenditure for teachers was \$570.00

John G. Hood, who had recently taught in the public schools, wrote the report for the year ending March, 1846. His "general remarks" at its close were highly practical. He censured the custom followed by some parents who took their children from the Centre school when they had reached an age at which they could be employed at a mechanical trade. He condemned the policy that "turned out" these imperfectly educated boys to become townsmen, parts of society, on whom the public duties of the community would soon devolve. "Our Republican Institutions are depending on the intelligence and popular will for their continuance and usefulness. Therefore how important it is, that the rising generation should be well instructed, both in moral and intellectual knowledge. This, though of so much importance, appears by many to be lost sight of or totally disregarded, and sinks into insignificance when compared with dollars and cents."

But while the chairman of the school board severely criticised the money making parent he did not spare the thoughtless and superficial mind, for he says:—"There

is, in the community, a very strong inclination on the part of pupils, and in some instances of parents and teachers, to attend to some of the higher branches and thereby become superficial or merely white washed. This needs counteracting; no scholar should be allowed or even encouraged to omit the common useful branches in order to study the ornamental and less useful. Common Arithmetic should not be made second to Algebra, nor English Grammar to Logic and Rhetoric. After a knowledge of Reading, Spelling, Defining, Writing, Grammar and Geography is obtained, which is a firm basis for an English Education, then and not till then should scholars aspire to higher branches. By an examination of some schools and scholars, it might be inferred that a new highway to obtain knowledge had been opened, which would entirely cut off the old fundamental branches, and in their place be substituted the elegant, towering and refined." This seems to have been aimed at the North district, where for the past few years, the scholars taught during the winter term by college students, had revelled in the glories of latin, greek, algebra, geometry, astronomy and kindred studies. It is noticeable that the following year found but one scholar in the town, and he in the North district, applying himself to latin, and but three who studied algebraic forms while geometry was a thing unknown. Meanwhile improvements were taking place. New school houses were being built and the report grows reminiscent — "for the old houses will soon be numbered among the things that were, and known only in history, as one after another of these time-worn and 'boy-abused' edifices are annually giving place to their neat, gay and youthful competitors."

Little of note is recorded for the following year. Both teachers and scholars seem to have quietly moved along the "even tenor of their way." The new North school house was occupied for the first time during the winter term of 1846-7, and the report remarks on "the height of the room and the means afforded for ventilation." When one considers the architectural barrenness of the average "district school" and holds in mind the present outlying

school houses, the following extract from this report seems a little in the nature of adulation.

"The last school house is now under contract (the East), on the completion of which, if it falls not behind its temporaries, our Town will have school houses not inferior, but commanding, fascinating and attractive, and to which we can point with admiration, as *forts* in which our children will have the principles of virtue, morality and religion inculcated, which will ever be a sure national defence for our Republican Institutions."

For the school year ending March 13, 1848 there was no *printed* report made to the town. A few years ago John H. Towne had the manuscript put into type at his expense and a small edition was struck off. The name of Rev. Anson McLoud appears for the first time as committeeman and at frequent intervals in the following years, his interest in the public schools never flagging. As his name heads the list he probably was chairman of the committee as well might become his influential position in town. "We were much pleased with the correctness and apparent intelligence with which important moral lessons in rhyme, and some beautiful passages from the scriptures were repeated." So says the report of the North school taught by Miss Clarissa H. Towne.

Mr. McLoud, politic man that he was, gave the town great praise for their recent efforts in building new school houses, and then proceeded to suggest that there were other things needed. "You have done nobly in erecting four new school houses within the space of four years. No country town in this immediate neighborhood, perhaps none in the county and few in the state are so well furnished with neat, tasteful, comfortable, convenient school houses as Topsfield. It is worthy of note and reflects honor upon our citizens that these four houses have been built without opposition or wrangling, yea, *with* the hearty good will of all. We hope the suggestion will not be out of place to people who have shown so much patriotism and liberality in building the houses, that they take a little pains to ornament the grounds on which the houses stand. Let the people of each neighborhood set

out a few shade trees in proper locations immediately. Let the yards be bordered with rose bushes and shrubbery." How well his suggestion was received and acted upon is well known.

"Singing has been employed in the Centre School with admirable effect" says the report for the next year, which also says "we regard Mr. Berry as a first rate teacher, but think it would tend to the improvement of his school if he would prohibit the communications of the scholars with each other, and also would rely a little less upon concert recitations." Excellent advice.

The winter term of the North school at times must have been rather exciting for the report in mild language regrets that any of the scholars should have been deficient in respectful deportment due to a teacher, at the same time deploring the fact that the teacher should have been injudicious in his management and hasty and harsh of speech. The larger scholars were the flies in this pedagog's ointment. The report announces a discovery which it were well that parents, even at the present day, would ever bear in mind. "We believe that instances have been found in the history of our race, of children who had no very scrupulous regard for the truth." An important fact; and the report goes still further and says, "parents may prevent much disturbance in the neighborhood, much trouble to the teacher, and much shame and chagrin on their own part, if they will search a little after the unvarnished truth, before they give way to passion and resentment." Mr. McLoud then lays down this axiom—"children who have a descent bringing up at home, never have quarrels and disturbances at school, either with the teacher, or with other scholars."

The Scotch blood of the worthy pastor came to the surface in his summary this year, and his pen was forged into a Damascene blade with which to bring confusion to the non-progressive element in town. It all grew out of an attempt by the committee to introduce into the schools, at their own expense, a system of weekly report cards now considered so essential. It appears that the committee, with childlike innocence, supposed each parent would

take to the innovation as ducks to the brook, but in this they were sadly mistaken. Mr. McLoud most picturesquely describes the furor raised among the parents of the scholars. "Some of the parents regarded the cards as an innovation, and therefore mischievous. Some looked upon them as anti-scriptural, and therefore wicked. Some thought they were tyrannical and arbitrary, and therefore in conflict with the Immortal Declaration of Independence and the glorious Constitution. Some believed them a crafty device by which they should be certified when their children had played truant, or had behaved badly in school, or had neglected their lessons, and therefore an abomination. At first it was proposed to issue the cards regularly, but learning that they were deemed such mighty engines of evil, fraught with ruin to all our political, social, and religious interests, we directed the teachers not to insist upon a parent's signing them, but to keep the weekly record on the cards, notwithstanding. One of the teachers who had opposed the introduction of the cards, after a few weeks took the responsibility of laying them aside, and we felt like sympathizing with him rather than censuring him, for he had made such a ridiculous mistake in filling out the blanks, and withal had used such awkward chirography, that it must have been extremely mortifying to him to send them round weekly to all the families."

Mr. McLoud prepared the reports for the next two years, and had little to offer of an unusual nature. "A young man from Lynn" tried to teach the East school for the winter term of 1850-1, and proved to be a weak member, so that the chairman gave him his discharge papers at the end of the first three days.

Richard Phillips, jr., took charge of the educational responsibilities of the town at the next annual town meeting, and at the close of the year presented a superlative report. Mr. Phillips' command of adjectives, added to a happy faculty for euphonious phrases, gave to the report a most glittering effect.

Dr. Merriam succeeded to Mr. Phillips' editorial shoes, and reported to the town that the committee had discov

ered things that called loudly for improvement. He severely criticised the lack of thoroughness and the veneer of various ornamental studies which had been pursued to the neglect of the three R's. An epidemic of scarlet fever prevailed about the town and interfered with the attendance, although nothing is said regarding the closing of the schools owing to its contagious character.

In 1855, Dr. Merriam, on writing the report, began as follows: "We would that you were either cold or hot; that you would either praise or censure our Cold or hot; that you would read and make your comments. We have been making Reports year after year concerning the condition of the mental and moral developments of those young immortals for whom you profess to have great anxiety, and yet hardly take the pains to peruse a short account of a year's teaching, whether it be for weal or for woe. We believe this Report is not all honey-sweetened, nor vinegar-acidulated." The worthy doctor spoke truly, for his summary preserved a happy medium of criticism and praise. But a new star of transcendent brilliancy soon appeared above the horizon and began to shed its rays of wisdom on the town through the medium of the school report. "Squire" Holmes, who, like his illustrious legal predecessor, Sylvanus Wildes of lawful memory, ever enjoyed the delights of a perpetual vacation from exacting legal cares, began to favor the town with choice specimens of his curious wit. The report for 1857 was the first of the series, and the "Squire," being a bit unfamiliar with his task, hardly reached the eloquent pace he afterward attained.

"Our first visit was directed to the Centre school, kept by Ellen M. Perley. As we neared the school house, 'with measured steps and slow,' in all the consequential dignity of office, our ears were saluted with an increasing murmur. Like the good lady who, arrayed in a new dress, entered the church just as the minister was saying, 'the Lord have mercy on us,' and supposing he must be speaking of what she was thinking, exclaimed, 'the Lord of mercy on us!—didn't you ever see a new gown before?' We presumed the noise was occasioned by the

timely discovery of our anticipated advent by some 'look out,' and in honor of our exalted selves. On our entrance the illusion was quickly dissipated by the uproarious demonstration of joy at our arrival, not as honoring *us*, but dishonoring the school by availing themselves of the occasion for confusion. A few pursued their studies with stoical indifference, while the majority were assiduously determining the flexibilities of which their bodies were susceptible. Suggesting the importance of good order, we departed."

The average attendance at the East school being eight, the "Squire" says of the teacher: "Having been faithful over a few things, we trust she will as deservedly rule over many." The national standard floated over the North school house on examination day, the interior was decorated with evergreens and potted plants and crowded with parents and children from all parts of the town, and honored by the presence of the clergy. "In fact," says the report, "it was a glorious day for the 'city' and will form an era in its educational annals."

Mr. Holmes grew reminiscent while discussing the South school and remarked that "it will be recollected that this school was, the previous winter, under the tyrannic rule of the gentleman of the 'rueful countenance,' who, it seems, was Daniel Wilkins of Littleton, N. H. The chairman, the previous year, states that Wilkins possessed "an austere countenance," so possibly the "Squire" was justified in quoting Don Quixote.

The glories of the old Topsfield Academy have been celebrated so recently that the opinion of that honored institution held by the school committee of 1857 is certainly of interest. While moralizing on the recently awakened interest in education, the chairman continues: "We do not assume to ourselves the propulsion of this movement, but ascribe it, rather, to the self-awakening of the citizens whose gullibility has been so long practiced on, in the poms, fetes, high solemnities, and other inflations of superficial academic teachers."

But Chairman Holmes, in a footnote, confesses his weakness and gives way to spleen. He had been giving

the town an example of his acute mind in describing the principle of "pedal suction," as he styles it. While reading Dr. Kane's polar narrative, he found that work stated that the walrus, having a weight of three thousand pounds or more, made its way up the perpendicular, polished surface of ice and rock by its tusks, whereupon the "Squire" gave an eloquent description of the "pedal suction" principle, using as an example the house fly. He speaks of his amazement on finding that the Edinburgh Encyclopaedia did not agree with him, but took sides with Dr. Kane, and then goes on to say: "I addressed a letter in January last to the editor of the N. Y. Tribune, embodying this statement; but he was so transcendentalized with the immensity of his gastronomic developments, the garnered accumulation doubtless of his consortion with the Catos of the land, that my communication was unheeded." Had Horace Greeley chanced upon this confession, what a smile would have spread over his benign countenance.

Nearly ten years passed before the "Squire" was given an opportunity to write another school report. He seemed to have filled "a long felt want," and filled it to a satiety. In 1865 he again came to the front, and opens his report with a description of his visit to the Centre primary school kept by Miss Mary E. Gould. "At the accustomed monitions, the children resolved themselves into 'position,' with all the grave demeanor of a society of beavers, rising with military precision to the enactment of the 'gymnastic drill,'

While boy and girl, with stentor lung,
The 'Glory Hallelujah' sung.

These interesting flummeries were succeeded by the recitations, then came the grand racy caper on the common."

As superintendent of all the schools he wrote, "Instead of the glib analytic 'amplifications' of our fashionable schools, so delicious to the scholastic *a la mode* exquisite, we have substituted the study of spelling, reading, writing, parsing and transposing the English language according to Murray. It may be old-fashioned, but some how or other we cannot get round old Murray.

In lieu of quadratic equations, we have wrought taxes, measured wood and timber, triangulated distances, and, in a word, leaving excelsiorites to the excelsiori, we have directed our attention to the simples of our own sphere, squaring up these things to the very root.

“Again, assuming corporal punishment to be indispensable, not as a universal remedy, but in extreme cases, still with *striking* reminiscences of the development of craniologic bumps by the application of hard *rules*, I would recommend that these *rules* be so applied as not to create a distorted, but nicely proportioned and well balanced head. . . .

“The subject of our Centre school house has been under consideration for years.

“The idea of the present edifice, like that of the unique structure on the nether end of our church, originated in the concentrated wisdom of certain Topsfield geniuses, who for their efforts in edificial originality procured themselves the legitimate titular appendage of ‘pillars of the church and parish,’ giving to the world a new order of architecture dominated The Whim.

“The nowhere, no-how location of the house has called forth unqualified expressions of wonder at the peculiar ingenuity of these savans in devising so perfect a representation of the versatility of our people. Still, without detracting from their general conceptions, I would say in all honesty that the architects or their eulogists are here sadly at fault, since the very vanes of our churches on ‘The Common,’ by some mysterious mesmeric polarity of congergated and methodic will, or other determined supernatural spiritual agency, turn persistently in opposite directions, in spite of wind or weather, in utter recusancy.

“The exterior form of the building, with the door beyond the centre, was suggested, probably by the Roman steelyard with its principle of balanced justice and privilege, and wrought into edificial use by the same converting power of genius that conceived and effected the Ionian order of architecture from the contemplation of a lady’s curls, or the Corinthian from a vase of flowers, or the elder Chaldaic from the palm tree.

“The portal of the house, more expressive than that of the temple of Janus at Rome, open at all times, indicates the elemental freedom arising from popular liberty.

“The interior economical arrangement presents itself at the entry, in the ingenious device of the garret with its magazine of wood, borne up to be thrown down, projected in the prescience of coming events, to initiate the young in the art of war, and how one well posted could contend against ‘fearful odds.’

“As one enters the rooms he is struck with the comprehensive economy of the conception, in the practical solution of the problem by which a thing is made to hold more than it will contain, and the great facilities for the communication of knowledge with two in a seat and three in the middle, including illustrations of double position and double proportion, and the rising inflection with model artist exhibitions of primitive Hottentotal statuary.

“Nor need I name the peculiar arrangement for the diffusion of heat and cold with geographic elucidations of the torrid and frigid zones, and other scientific devices. This monument of mighty conception may pass away, ‘sic transit gloria mundi,’ but the evidence of the spirit that prompted, and the genius that executed, will ever be enstamped on the hearts of a grateful people.”

Much interesting and curious matter may be found in other reports of the school committee, but space will not permit its collection at this time. No account of the school reports of the town of Topsfield could be complete, however, without reference to the famous report made to the town in March, 1867, and written by “Squire” Holmes, a report for many years treasured in the office of the Salem Gazette, the place of its nativity, as one of the educational curiosities of the period.

“The Primary Centre school, summer and winter, was instructed by Miss Mary E. Gould, of Topsfield. Under the guidance of this master-hand in genuine philosophic simplicity, the school presented the same phases of unvarying successful advancement as in former years, from the dissonant mouthings of half-fledged juvenile articulation, through the winding passages of syllabicism, to

the Mount Hope of spell-reading ; the same grateful inter-spersion of gymnastic, vocal, recessive and studious enaction, rendering every exercise equally a pastime, and romancing the reality of first efforts in dry study. . . .

“ Miss Unis L. Tandy, of Groveland, succeeded Miss H[apgood] in the guidance of the South school during the winter season. Miss T. was an enthusiastic, energetic, social and decidedly plucky young lady, ‘laying out’ one of the biggest boys the first week, and hesitating not to remain with her charge, in the storm-beleaguered school-house, during one of the most tempestuous nights of the past winter. In fact, with a peculiar force of character, she threw herself into teaching as a matter of business, not only conducting her school admirably, and bestowing thorough instruction to the very root of the matter, but, by coercives and suasives at school, socializing with the mammas at their homes, fraternizing with every one, she greatly popularized herself and the school, arousing an almost unprecedented educational interest in the district, evinced by the general ‘turn-out’ at the examination. . . .

“ The North school, summer term, commenced under the guidance of Miss Anna C. D. Holmes, of Ipswich, who, although considered a competent teacher, did not exactly suit the ‘City’ people, who, nurtured in the school of republican freedom, could ill brook the stern discipline and unfamiliar indignities perpetrated on ‘them and theirs’—but one, and then another, till the whole population en masse, little and big, man and woman and child, whispered, murmured, threatened, denounced, and at last rising like a volcano, burst with fiery indignation into open rebellion, kicking up a great dust in all the region round about. So frantically intense was the convulsion, that the very animals, and even the elements conspired in sympathetic expressiveness. The geese, whose ancestors saved Rome, with conscious political importance, loudly vociferated, quack ! quack ! quack ! The turkey, that true *Native American*, with indigenous consequential pride, gobbled about the calamities of foreign participation. The sheep, aroused from their quietude by the passing events, looking askance, gave a contemptuous bah ! The horse in-

icated his *course* by a *racy* yet positive *neigh*. Chanticleer, *crested* and *spurred*, and red with ire, from an eminence blew his clarion note of defiance; and the dog and cat, fraternizing in the common cause, *duetted* a caterwauling howl of execration. The bellicose bull ‘tossed a horn’ to the success of the enterprise, while the pacific guinea hen, in the spirit of the true kindliness, cried out earnestly, go back! go back! go back!

“Nor these alone, for Trinity River itself, that evangelical stream, swollen with rage, bursting forth in a torrent of wrathful outpouring, whirled and boiled, and eddied in irascible frothings threatening the City mole of ‘Long Wharf’ with demolition. To appease the tutelar Deity of the City, and relieve it from such an impending visitation, it was judged expedient to throw the mistress overboard, Jonah-like, whereupon a great calm ensued.”

THE BRIDGES IN TOPSFIELD.

BY HENRY FOLLANSBEE LONG.

Our present bridges are the result of gradual changes, from the "old ford way" and "plank bridge," necessitated by the improved facilities of transportation. The demand for some means of crossing "dry shod" at first resulted in "stepping stones," or a fallen log was utilized, and later a plank was laid across, this in turn being supplemented by another plank. The early records speak of "allowing" this person, or that person, "two pounds nine shillings," or some other amount, for "mending the highways" with plank. In this way, the early bridge, consisting of a single plank, was gradually widened into a rude "cart bridge." Because of this gradual process of growth it is impossible to discover on the early records the exact date of the building of any of our earliest bridges.

Some of the early bridges were constructed of slabs, as we are led to believe from the record under date of Nov. 1, 1725 when "The Town allowed to Jacob Averill three shillings & six pence for Slabs to mend the bridge near to Deac. Howletts." Under the same date, we find that Daniel Gould was allowed "two shillings & six pence for two Logs to mend the bridge near to Mr. John Capens house." Under date of March 7, 1681 or 82, we find that "John ffranch & John Townes are chosen to be siruiouers for ffences and hie ways & bridges for this yeare insuing." Probably the first bridge built was the bridge across the Ipswich river, now known as Balch's bridge, as mention is made of it as early as 1653. Mile Brook bridge on Perkins street was probably the second, first mention of it being under date of April 8, 1667. The first order to build a bridge was in "1668 or 69," when the bridge on Ipswich street over Howlett's Brook, was made. Many of the bridges were built when the streets on which they

are located were laid out. The bridges on the Turnpike were built by the Corporation in 1804 and 1805, with the exception of the Stone bridge.

THE IPSWICH RIVER BRIDGES.

ROWLEY BRIDGE. This bridge, so called from the fact that the Rowley town line ran near it before 1700, is the first bridge in Topsfield coming down the river. This bridge is mentioned in a deed Jan'y 1, 1695. We find no record of its building, but under date of March 6, 1764, we find the following record. "To see if the Town will help Dea^e George Bixby & others Mend & keep in Repair the Bridge a Crost the River in Topsfield called Rowley Bridg agreeable to a petition that may be Prefared to the Town by the said George Bixby and others." Again, under date of May 9, 1774, it was "voted that the bridge across y^e River, call Rowley bridge shall be new built this present year." May 26, 1806, it was voted that Daniel Bixby, Benjamin Pike and Henry Bradstreet be a committee to rebuild the bridge, "in the year 1807—fifteen feet wide with a Stone Pier in the middle."

BALCH'S BRIDGE. The bridge over the river on Salem street, variously known as the Town bridge, Wooden bridge and Walsh's bridge, is first mentioned March 30, 1653, when the court records speak of "the great bridg which the said Walter Ropper built and cartwaye over the river towards the south." October 21, 1682, the selectmen were ordered to appear at court to "shew the cause of the defect, why a bridge upon the road betweene Salem and Topsfield is not repaired." At a town meeting held May 23, 1718, "theare made Choys of Jacob Town Ephraim Wills and John Curtis a commity to uew and to set a uallaution aCording to there best Skill and Judgment of what y^e cost may amount to in rebuilding and repairing our Bridg and Caseway ouer Ipswich reuer and prefar the same With a petition to y^e honored Court of qurter Seshition to be holden at Salam in June next insuing the date hereof to see whether y^e honored court will asist us with help from the country so that we may be inabeled to rebuild the aboue said Bridge and caseway."

July 9, 1718, another meeting was called to see "which way the Town will rebuild the Bridg ouer the riuier." At the meeting, Isaac Pebody, Ephraim Wills and Simon Bradstreet were "chosen a comitie," "to agree with carpenters to build ye Bridge ouer y^e Riuier." Under date of October 31, 1718, we find that, "The Town alowed to Mr Isaac Peabody, Qrt^{mr} Ephraim Willds and Mr Simon Bradstreet twenty fiae pounds nine shillings for Building ye Bridg." In 1728 the bridge was again repaired, for we find under date of April 2, 1728 that, "Capt Joseph Gould is Chosen to Provide Plank two inches & a half thick and fourteen foot Long; good white oak Plank to Cover s^d Bridge." The town petitioned the "court holden at Ipswich" for a "grant of money to repair Town Bridge," March 17, 1727-8. David Balch was chosen, December 18, 1728, "to take care of the Towns timber near the town bridge so called." The bridge was rebuilt in 1805. Tradition says that an old fordway existed at a very early date, about one hundred and fifty feet below the present bridge.

STONE BRIDGE. The bridge sometimes called the Arch bridge or Turnpike bridge, was built in 1853, at a cost of \$3,658.54, the Town paying \$1,245.54, and the County the balance. The first bridge at this spot was of wood, and was built by the Newburyport Turnpike Corporation, in 1803 or 1804. It was washed away seven or eight years afterwards and again in December, 1837 it was partially destroyed.

TOWNE'S BRIDGE crosses the river at High street. The records do not show when this bridge was built, and it may be presumed that a bridge did not exist here prior to 1771, for in that year bricks were hauled over Grass hill to build the chimney of the Bradstreet house. Direct mention, however, is made to this bridge on July 15, 1809, when Joshua Town "had with our consent laid out and fenced a certain road or way of the width of 3 rods leading from a bridge lately erected by said Joshua over Ipswich river in said Topsfield over our land on the S. side of sd River to land now belonging to the widow Sarah Fisk."

RAILROAD BRIDGE. The bridge on which the Boston and Maine railroad crosses the river is sometimes known as the "Iron Bridge." The present structure was constructed by the Boston Bridge Works in 1888. In the month of February, 1855, a heavy freshet destroyed the first bridge built the previous year, so that for a portion of the month no trains passed through Topsfield. The second bridge was built at this time.

LAMSON'S BRIDGE, over which Asbury street crosses, is named from the family of that name, who have lived in this vicinity for two hundred and fifty years. Felt, in his History of Ipswich, says that in 1730 a cart bridge was "built over the river by Jonathan Lamson and others." April 3, 1780, "The Town allowed to Mr Peletiah Cummings four pounds twelve shillings for forty six feet of plank used in covering Lamson's bridge." November 4, 1813, it was voted that a new bridge be built over the river. This bridge was probably completed in 1814, for under date of March 1, 1814, appears further mention of the "new bridge."

MISCELLANEOUS BRIDGES.

DRY BRIDGE. So called from the fact of its bridging Howlett street where the Turnpike crosses. Under date of April 1, 1805, it was voted, "To grant liberty to the Newburyport Turnpike Corporation to erect a dry bridge across the road near Joseph Andrews, provided it is done to the reasonable satisfaction of the selectmen and Sylvanus Wildes, Isaac Averill and Joseph Andrews and all persons immediately concerned or the major part of them."

MILE BROOK BRIDGE crosses Mile brook on Perkins street, east from the junction of Perkins and Ridge streets. The first mention of this bridge is at a meeting held April 8 1667 when, "The Towne granted Liberty to William Aueriell and Daniell Borman to make a dame at the Mile brooke a rode and a halfe aboue the bridge to float there medow prouided it be no damige to the town." The bridge was repaired in 1701. Dec. 18, 1728, Nathaniel Averill was allowed "six shillings and two pence," for

“two string pieces and eight slabs to mend Mile Brooke bridge in 1728.” This bridge was used as a bound in deeds of land in 1711.

FISH BROOK BRIDGE is at the boundary line between Boxford and Topsfield on River street. In a deed dated December 27, 1662, a piece of land is spoken of as being bounded by “Curtice’s Bridge.” Presumably this was Fish Brook bridge. Mention of this bridge is made again in 1767, as Fish Brook bridge. It was rebuilt in 1805.

WHEEL BROOK BRIDGE carries Salem street over the brook at the foot of Dwinell’s hill, so called. The first mention of this bridge is on September 21, 1742, when “The Town allowed to Thomas Dwinel one pound Ten shillings old Tenor for Timber to mend Wheel Brook Bridge in ye year 1741.”

BRIDGE OVER HOWLETT’S BROOK on Ipswich street, just below the junction of Perkins Street. From the following record it appears that a bridge existed here very early, for under date of “ye 2 march 1668 or 69, it is also ordered and agreed apon With Ensigne Thomas Howlett that thay will make and maintaine a bridge ouer ye Brooke by Ensignes house in ye way as wee goe to Ipswich ye one halfe to be don by the Towne and the other halfe by ye sd Ensigne.” December 18, 1728, this bridge is spoken of as the bridge “by Deacⁿ Howletts,” and under date of May 16, 1786, Capt. Thomas Cummings was allowed, “ten shillings and five pence for 67 feet of white oake plank used in mending Hobbs Bridge (so called).”

NICHOLS’ BROOK BRIDGE, is now in Middleton, but for a number of years was in Topsfield. It is on the Copper Mine road. March 5, 1705/6 “The Town agreed to free all ye Inhabitants on ye South west side of Nicholls Brook from highway worke on ye north East Side of said Brook for this year provided they maintain the Bridge over s^d Nichollses Brook and the rest of the highways and Bridges on that side of ye sd Nichollses Brook.”

FALLS BRIDGE is on North street, near Ipswich street, at the mill pond. The first mention of this bridge is

under date of June 22, 1714, when North street was laid out. The record reads, "We whose names are under-written have lay'd out a highway from ye common Land afore^{sd} over the falls Bridge so called up the Hill to the lift and fence, near Deac Dormans and Mr. Isaac Peabodys fence." In 1724, under date of December 15th, Capt. Thomas Baker was allowed "seven shillings & Six pence for Timber to mend the falls Bridge in 1724."

GALLUP'S BROOK BRIDGE is on Haverhill street, where it crosses Pie brook, more recently known at this point as Gallup's brook, because Israel Gallup lived near this bridge over fifty years ago. The bridge was probably built in March, 1668 or 69, when the road was laid out, although no record of its building exists.

BOARDMAN'S BRIDGE on Ipswich street, at the crossing of the Turnpike. The first mention of this bridge is on October 3, 1717, when a road was laid out, "from the Road that is lay'd through Mr. Peabodys Land and Jesse Dormans Land to Ipswich to the Bridg to Jacob Peabodys Land, etc." This bridge was repaired in 1733 and in 1813. At a town meeting held May 15, 1826, it was "voted to build a stone bridge in the place of the wooden one near Messrs Peabody's mills, called Boardman's bridge, and Ephraim Perkins, David Hobbs, Junr., and John Potter were chosen a committee to build said bridge."

BRIDGE OVER GALLUP'S BROOK OFF HAVERHILL STREET. A bridge was built, "over the brook back of Ivory Hovey's," on Jan. 13, 1709. "March 17, 1789," The Town voted that the Surveyors of High-ways Shall build a Bridge across the Brook near the House that was occupied by Ivory Hovey and repair the Road from said Brook to the Country Road in Some Convenient place in order that Stephen Perley, and others may pass, and repass as they shall have occasion. Provided Mr. Thomas Emerson gives from under his hand in writing that said Perley, and all other persons may pass and repass from time to time as they shall have occasion."

GREAT POND BRIDGE is near Hood's pond on Pond street. This bridge may have been built in March, 1668

or 69 when Pond street was built. In a deed of land sold in 1654, and recorded March 14, 1662, appears the following description of the parcel. "6 acres meadow lying about the middle of Mr. Bakers pond where the highway bridge comes," March 3, 1729/30 Jesse Dorman was allowed five shillings, "for Timber to Mend the bridge by ye Great Pond so called in 1729." March 3, 1746/7, "The Town allowed to Deacon Hovey Ten Shillings old Tenor for Timber to Mend the Bridge by the Great Pond in 1745."

ZACCHEUS PERKINS' BRIDGE. This bridge is off Prospect street, toward the old "Hubbard house," so called. At a town meeting held March 1, 1714/5 "The Town agreed that So long as Zacheus Perkins doth maintain a sufficient Cart Bridge over the Brook by his House, So long said Perkins Shall be freed from other Highway Work in the Town."

At a town meeting held November 17, 1727 "The town allowed to Samuel Smith two Shillings for Timber to mend the Bridge Near the Meeting-house," no doubt over the brook immediately in the rear. Under date of Sept. 7, 1694, "Sargt Houlet propounded for a draine crose the way from his field to mr Capens meadow and ye said Howlet engaged to make a bridg ouer it, and kep in repaire at his owne cost and charg; the inhabitence here preasent did mannifest thare free consent." Numerous small bridges or culverts have been built from time to time of which no account is here taken. The dry bridge, on which the railroad crosses West street, was built in 1854 and was replaced in 1888 by the present iron bridge. When the railroad was constructed, a "cow pass" was built under the roadbed near the oak grove between Washington street and West street, now owned by Henry B. Williams, but this was filled up a number of years ago. A bridge that existed in the 17th century, carries Maple street over the unnamed brook that flows southerly from the Village to the river. This bridge has been variously known as "Foster's" and "Poker" or "Porker" bridge. According to tradition it is associated with Parson Capen's encounter with the Devil during witchcraft times.

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH OF WILLIAM N. CLEAVELAND.

“Died February 10th [1872], at his home in Boxford, William Neale Cleaveland, aged seventy-four.” Such, the brief record of the daily obituary. Many who knew Mr. Cleaveland will feel that something more than this passing notice is due to his memory. He was not, indeed, in the usual sense of the phrase, a public man,—neither could his life be regarded as specially eventful. Those, however, who knew what he was, will hardly doubt that had he been less modest, or more ambitious, he could easily have played a part in legislation or in politics, nor can it be doubted that those energies of mind and will, which gave to him the leadership in a small community, would have made him conspicuously useful on a wider stage.

He was the son of Dr. Nehemiah and Mrs. Experience Cleaveland, and was born in Topsfield, Essex County, Mass., on the 6th of April, 1798. From parents of more than ordinary intelligence and worth, he inherited a vigorous constitution, both bodily and mental. At the proper age, he had the proffer of a college education, which a needless distrust of his own capacities, and the feeling, perhaps, that duty pointed in a different direction, led him to decline. Beside the town school, he attended, for a while, the Bradford and Atkinson Academies. Probably his most efficient training, both moral and intellectual, was the kindly discipline and unconscious culture of the paternal household, with its unceasing and wholesome activities of thought, reading and conversation. For two or three winters he taught school, very acceptably. Then he took charge of his father's little farm. He was strong and skillful, and performed with his own hands a vast amount of labor. Called to take an active part in town and parish affairs, he early evinced

great aptitude for business, combined with a praiseworthy independence of thought and action.

In 1829, he was married to Miss Harriet Perley of Boxford. No one, whose memory reaches back to that period, needs to be told that farmers, in those days, had a hard time, or will think it strange that this young husband sought for some employment which promised better returns. Very soon after his marriage, he removed to Killingly, Conn. There, with a young partner of some experience in the business, he reared a small mill for the spinning and weaving of cotton. This mill stood where, a few years later, the Danielsonville Manufacturing Company erected their large factory. After two years of hard work and of very successful operations, he sold out to his partner and returned to Essex County.

Mr. Gorham Parsons had, just before, come into possession of the small, but once famous, water power, at the head of tide-water in the Parker River, Newbury, and in conjunction with the ingenious and celebrated Paul Moody of Lowell, had rebuilt dam and mill. The spot might well be dear to Mr. Moody, for there he was born, and there he had served his apprenticeship to the great Jacob Perkins, in the rude little shop which produced and sent forth the first nails ever made by mechanical power. Of Mr. Parson's mill Mr. Cleaveland took a seven years' lease, and with the late Mr. Solomon Wildes of Boston, as a silent partner, proceeded to stock it with machinery for the manufacture of cotton cloth. In this responsible position, involving the care and control of many individuals, and demanding a constant exercise of judgment and skill, he showed himself to be a very efficient superintendent. But though he succeeded, so far as production was concerned, he was unable to make the business profitable. Under the disastrous influence of the "Compromise" (so called), American manufactures were then fast declining, and when that lease expired, that influence had culminated in universal stagnation and wide-spread ruin. As nothing to encourage its continuance was visible in prospect, the enterprise was given up.

In 1842, Mr. Cleaveland returned to his early home,

which still remained in the family, and which continued to be his place of residence for the next thirteen years. Here he was variously occupied. There was still some land to be cared for. He planted orchards and some ornamental trees, and superintended those alterations and improvements, which soon made the old house and its surroundings an object of rare attraction. Awake to every call of kindness and of duty, he approved himself a good husband, father, neighbor, and citizen. After the construction of the Danvers and Georgetown Railroad, he was made a director of the company, holding for several years the office of treasurer, in which capacity he had a great deal to do with the management of the road.

In 1856, he removed to East Boxford, and settled, for the rest of his life, on that large Perley farm which has come down in the family, unalienated, from the first settler of the town. Here, also, he found much to do in the way of improvement, and his good judgment and good taste were strikingly shown in the changes and additions which he made. Besides the care of his farm, on which he worked a good deal, he undertook the administration and settlement of several estates—a kind of business which suited him, and in which his promptness and accuracy, and great practical sagacity, were particularly serviceable.

But he had mind and heart for something beyond his farm and the daily details of business. The affairs and the welfare of the little parish which he had joined early enlisted his warm interest and active efforts. At East Boxford he found himself among a people who knew how to appreciate such an accession, and who gladly seconded his movements in every good cause. Their house of worship had gone to decay, and had long been unfit for use. All attempts to renovate, or even to repair it, had been foiled by the selfish obstinacy of two or three large pew-holders. Mr. Cleveland took hold of the task, bringing to it courage, intelligence, and persistent energy, and the work was soon accomplished.

The neat and well-inclosed burying-ground, in which his remains now rest, had long been suffering from indif-

ference and neglect. There are many who remember how skilfully Mr. Cleaveland awakened a new interest among the proprietors of that graveyard, how he induced them to open their purses, and did not rest until he had placed about the ground that handsome and substantial wall, which is itself a monument to his memory.

When, a few years later, the parish wished to express, by some special manifestation, their regard for a pastor whose faithful services they had enjoyed for five and twenty years, Mr. Cleaveland's efficient agency was again sought, and again resulted in a success that exceeded their highest expectations.

His latest, and probably most important service of this description, was the part which he took in the erection of a parsonage house. When he entered on that work, which he believed to be absolutely essential to the continued prosperity of the parish, many regarded it as a hopeless enterprise, even in his hands. But the difficulties which discouraged others, seemed to stimulate him. It was only by earnest and persevering effort that the proposed fund was raised. Even then the work could not have been carried forward without careful planning, the most frugal management, and constant oversight. All this and more, for days and months, he willingly gave, not only directing others, but laboring often with his own hands. Had he left no other memorial, that neat, pleasant, commodious parsonage would speak his praise. . . .

Always and eminently a lover of home, he was fortunate in his domestic relations. Two daughters died while the family lived in Topsfield. His other children, four in number, continued to live with or near him, and the wife of his youth survives him. . . .

—*Salem Gazette*, Mar. 19, 1872.



TINTYPE PORTRAITS TAKEN ABOUT 1868.

William Herbert Wildes
Mrs. Rachel Clifford
Samuel Clifford

Charles H. Leach
Thomas F. Gould
Joseph H. Lovett

Sarah S. Edwards
Gilbert B. Balch
William Henry Wildes

TINTYPE PORTRAITS OF TOPSFIELD PEOPLE
TAKEN ABOUT 1868.

WILLIAM HERBERT WILDES, son of Humphrey and Olive B. (Perkins) Wildes, was born in Topsfield, Oct. 13, 1843 and married, Nov. 5, 1865, Eunice H. Richardson of Middleton. Shoemaker by trade and now lives on Washington street. Enlisted on July 9, 1864, for 100 days, in 8th Mass. Vol. Infy., Company D.

CHARLES HEALY LEACH, son of Thomas K. and Louisa (Morgan) Leach, was born in Topsfield, May 28, 1854 and married, Jan. 15, 1884, Mary A. Wilkins of Wenham. Butcher by trade and now lives in Wenham to which town he removed in 1910. Kept a market in Topsfield for many years and also drove a butcher's cart. Served as selectman, road surveyor, and held other minor offices. Was instrumental in grading the common in front of the Town Hall. Member of Congregational church choir and Secretary of Fountain Lodge, I. O. O. F.

SARAH STICKNEY EDWARDS, daughter of John and Mary Ann (Marsh) Edwards, was born in Haverhill, Aug. 25, 1839, and died, unmarried, April, 1907, in Haverhill. As a young girl she came to Topsfield and lived with her aunt, Mrs. Royal A. Merriam, returning to Haverhill in 1887 after her aunt's death. While living in Topsfield she was much interested in the Town Library and served as a volunteer worker. The Town Library received a bequest of \$500, at her death.

MRS. RACHEL CLIFFORD, daughter of Azariah and Sarah (Towne) Averill, was born in Salem, April 16, 1816, and married, Nov. 28, 1832, Samuel Clifford of Topsfield, where she lived until her death, Apr. 20, 1900.

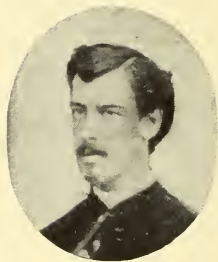
THOMAS FRANKLIN GOULD, son of Francis and Almira (Doe - Dudley) Gould, was born in Boxford, Sept. 7, 1849, and died, unmarried, May 30, 1909, in Haverhill. Shoemaker by trade. Removed to Haverhill, about 1884 where for several years he served on the police force.

GILBERT BROWNELL BALCH, son of Humphrey and Hannah P. (Bradstreet) Balch, was born in Topsfield, Feb. 9, 1856. He fitted at Phillips Academy, Andover, for Dartmouth College, graduating in the class of 1877. He studied law for one year at Boston University and then deciding upon the ministry he entered Andover Theological Seminary and was graduated in 1881, and became pastor of the Congregational Church at Kingston, N. H. He resigned this pastorate in 1884 because of ill health and the following year engaged in the book publishing business in Toronto, Canada, removing to Boston in 1887 where he organized the firm of Balch Brothers Co., achieving considerable business success in the sale of the Century Dictionary and in publishing the Stoddard Lectures. He married, July 14, 1881, Sarah Elizabeth Perkins of Topsfield, and died there July 24, 1910.

SAMUEL CLIFFORD, son of Samuel and Lydia Clifford, was born in Salem, N. H.(?), Feb. 28, 1807, and married Nov. 28, 1832, Rachel Averill of Topsfield. He was a shoemaker by trade and died Feb. 17, 1872 in Topsfield.

JOSEPH HENRY LOVETT, son of Joseph and Sarah A. (Morse) Lovett, was born in Topsfield, Aug. 29, 1843, and married in Lawrence, Jan. 27, 1870. Mary Elizabeth Nutter. He was a clerk in B. P. Adams' store when he enlisted Aug. 15, 1862, for three years, in the 40th Mass. Vols. Infy., Company F. He was taken prisoner at Drury's Bluff, where he lost his leg. He was confined in prison at Richmond Prison and two months later was exchanged. Was discharged for disability, with the rank of corporal, on June 13, 1865. Bookkeeper and also in the insurance business. Lives in Lawrence.

WILLIAM HENRY WILDES, son of Joseph Benjamin and Louisa E. (Foster) Wildes, born (baptized June 4, 1843)



TINTYPE PORTRAITS TAKEN ABOUT 1868.

Mrs. Huldah L. Sweeney
Benjamin Lane
Edwin S. Clifford

Andrew Gould
Annie Wright
Mrs. Mehitabel Lake

Mrs. Mary Parkinson
Henry H. Potter
Carrie A. Higgins and
Mrs. Susan J. Averill

in Andover, married Dec. 20, 1869, in Topsfield, Dora T. Sweeney and died Feb. 2, 1872, in Topsfield. Shoemaker by trade.

MRS. HULDAH L. SWEENEY, daughter of Enos and Anna (Gould) Lake, was born in Newburyport, May 2, 1807, and married Miles Sweeney. She died in Topsfield, April 15, 1883.

ANDREW GOULD, son of Andrew and Pamela (Kenney) Gould, was born in Middleton, Dec. 11, 1805, and died in Topsfield, Oct. 6, 1896. He married Feb. 24, 1829, Mary Prudence Lake. Lived in Boxford from 1831 until 1847. A prominent citizen of Topsfield. Farmer, contractor, and at one time partner of Wm. E. Kimball in the grocery business. Selectman, assessor, overseer of the poor, and held other minor offices. For years a justice of the peace and settled many estates.

MRS. MARY ("POLLY") PARKINSON, daughter of Ezra and Betsy (Redden) Perkins, was born in Topsfield in 1807, and married July 17, 1851, John Parkinson, an Englishman, who was by trade a tailor. They lived in what is now the Gould house at the corner of School avenue, where he plied his trade and also kept a small tavern or lodging house. "Aunt Polly," died Apr. 14, 1897, in the almshouse.

BENJAMIN LANE, son of David S. and Lydia Ann Lane, was born in Gloucester, Aug. 6, 1839, and married Dec. 5, 1862, at Gloucester, Lucy J. Kneeland. Shoemaker, keeper of a billiard hall, and afterwards dealer in leather. Enlisted Aug. 23, 1864, for ten months, in 28th Unattached Company Heavy Artillery, afterwards the 4th Mass. Heavy Artillery, Company M. Lives in Topsfield.

LUCY ANN ("ANNIE") WRIGHT, daughter of Deacon John and Lucy Ann (Sanderson) Wright was born in Topsfield, Aug. 19, 1854, and now lives, unmarried, in Cambridge, Mass. At one time teacher in the public schools of Topsfield.

HENRY HARVEY POTTER, son of John H. and Hannah W. (Whittaker) Potter, was born in Topsfield, Oct. 27, 1847, and married in Topsfield, Mar. 13, 1872, Mary E. Andrews of Topsfield. Carpenter. Enlisted July 9, 1864, for 100 days, in 8th Mass. Vol. Infy., Company D. Re-enlisted, Sept. 17, 1864, at Baltimore, Md., for one year, in 2d Mass. Heavy Artillery, Company G, serving on the quota of Springfield. Now lives in Danvers and is an official in the Boston Custom House.

EDWIN SPOFFORD CLIFFORD, son of Samuel and Rachel (Averill) Clifford, was born in Topsfield, April 20, 1839, and married, in Topsfield, April 24, 1862, Amanda D. Pike of Topsfield. Shoemaker by trade but at one time in the coal business with Isaac M. Woodbury. Elected deacon of the Congregational Church, March 28, 1884. Lives in Topsfield. An ardent fisherman.

MRS. MEHITABLE LAKE, daughter of Enos and Anna (Gould) Lake, born in Newburyport, Mar. 31, 1805, married, in Topsfield, Nov. 30, 1824, Joel Lake, and died in Topsfield, July 26, 1881.

CARRIE A. HIGGINS, daughter of Major and Caroline (Stackpole) Higgins, was born in Salem, in 1846, married in Topsfield, Nov. 30, 1871, Joel L. Sweeney. Now lives in Lynn.

MRS. SUSAN JOSEPHINE (LAKE) AVERILL, daughter of William G. and Mehitabel (Balch) Lake, was born in Topsfield, June 13, 1838, and married, in Topsfield, Dec. 8, 1864, Ephraim Perkins Averill. Now lives in Topsfield.

NEWSPAPER ITEMS RELATING TO TOPSFIELD.

COPIED FROM SALEM NEWSPAPERS

BY GEORGE FRANCIS DOW.

(Continued from Vol. XV (1910), page 156.)

TOPSFIELD ACADEMY.

The Summer Terms in this Seminary will commence on MONDAY, the first day of June next, to continue twelve weeks.

The school is open for males and females. Instruction will be given, as may be desired, in the various studies connected with a common mercantile or classical education, and appropriate instruction to those who wish to become qualified as *teachers*.

Board in families in the immediate neighbourhood of the school can be obtained at prices varying from \$2.50 to \$1.50.

Tuition, \$5 and \$6 the term.

ALFRED W. PIKE, Principal.
Salem Gazette, May 29, 1835.

FOR THE SALEM GAZETTE.

PUBLIC IMPROVEMENTS.

MR. EDITOR,—I am sincerely rejoiced to see some of the good people of Salem, after so long a season of lethargic sleep, awaking to their true interest, and giving their attention to such public improvements as are intimately associated with the future prosperity of your beautiful town. I must confess myself in no slight degree astonished that even a solitary individual should be found sceptical as to the necessity or expediency of prosecuting the projected improvements. I am aware that in times gone by, diminutive minds have stigmatized and ridiculed some of the noblest benefactors of their race, as wild and scheming visionaries, but the fruits of a Fulton's skill and of a Clinton's discernment and perseverance, show with how little foundation. If there are any now who honestly doubt the utility and advan-

tage to Salem of the works to which allusion has been made, I would respectfully request them to look at New York and other places which have experienced the renovating power of improvement. Let them compare their present condition with the past. On the borders of every canal and railroad, the busy hum of industry is heard, numerous villages have sprung into existence, as by the magic of enchantment, while those villages and towns previously in being, by enjoying the good fortune to be immediately on the routes, have doubled and in some instances trebled their population and business. Cause and effect, all things equal, must be proportionately the same everywhere. I cannot, therefore, allow myself to believe that the project of a railroad from Salem to Boston will be abandoned. I trust that all interested in this matter,—like the spirited individuals who have recently purchased the Crowninshield wharf,—will do something more than talk.

Availing myself of the privilege of your columns, I would invite public attention to the subject of *extending* the talked of improvement. I wish to see *Salem and Haverhill connected by a canal*. I presume no individual expects that merely a railroad from Salem to Boston, however great the advantage resulting from it, is the only improvement necessary to be made to preserve that town, and with it the old County of Essex—for the interests of both are blended—from going further in the retro-trade march. I presume likewise, that it is not generally known, or even thought of, that a canal might be more easily and cheaply constructed from Salem to Haverhill than on almost any other route, of the same distance, in the country. But such I believe to be the fact. From the head of tide water in Bass River in Beverly, to Wenham Pond, is but a fraction more than a mile. From the north end of this pond it is but a few rods to another smaller pond.

From thence it is about one fourth of a mile to the Great Swamp in Wenham, through which runs the Ipswich river from Topsfield. Thus it will be perceived that the excavations from Salem to Topsfield would be but about three and an half or four miles in length (one third of which is low land), and not one deep excavation to be made in the whole distance. From the pleasant and thrifty village of Topsfield, I would proceed thro' a part of Boxford to that interesting and business-like place, New-Rowley, and from thence to the nearest and most practicable place on the Merrimack, in Bradford. I believe that the whole route from Topsfield to the Merrimack is perfectly feasible, and may be accomplished without any deep excava-

tions. Thus by a railroad and canal from Boston to Haverhill, the distance would not be more than four or five miles further, through Salem, then by the stage route from Boston to Haverhill direct.

But here a question of benefit arises. Who will be benefitted by the accomplishment of this project? I answer: The city of Boston, the towns of Lynn, Salem, Beverly, Wenham, Topsfield, Boxford, New-Rowley, Bradford, and Haverhill, together with every town in the immediate vicinity of those through which it passes. In fact, the whole county of Essex will be highly benefitted, for the suggested route passes through its very centre. Make this improvement, and I will venture to predict that in a few years this medium of intercommunication will be extended to the Winnepisseogee Lake, in New Hampshire, thus concentrating the trade from New Hampshire and the north part of Vermont, and securing a sure, convenient, and ready conveyance for all the productions of the earth from this large tract of farming country, as well as for an abundance of ship and other timber, which is at this time worth but a mere trifle. It would likewise prevent many of our most enterprising young men from emigrating to the far west to find a better field for their enterprise.

Once more, and I have done for the present. If the citizens of Salem and Beverly would unite to make the Beverly Bridge a free thoroughfare, it would greatly tend to build up the two places. This, with the improvements that are now making on the road from Beverly to Topsfield, which, by the by, will be the nearest route, by about a mile, from Salem to Haverhill, and something more than a mile from Salem to Newburyport, will in a great measure secure to Salem the travel, and consequently a good share of the business, from Maine, New Hampshire, and Vermont.

AN ESSEX COUNTY FARMER.
Salem Gazette, June 19, 1835.

Hon. N. Cleaveland of Topsfield was elected President of the Essex County Temperance Society at a meeting held in South Danvers.

Salem Gazette, July 28, 1835.

Topsfield, July 28, 1835.

Public Notice is hereby given, that I have this day impounded in the Town Pound of Topsfield whereof Joseph Wildes is Pound keeper, one HORSE, red or bay color, dark mane and tail

—not any shoes on his feet, supposed to be about seven years old, which horse I found going at large in the public highway in said town, and for that cause impounded the same. The owner to me is unknown.

CYRUS KNEELAND, Field driver.
Salem Gazette, August 18, 1835.

SALUTARIUM.

Dr. Merriam will open his house in Topsfield for the reception of Invalids and those affected with chronic complaints in Medicine or Surgery. Various kinds of baths will be provided and carriages for short excursions in the surrounding country.

Disorders of the chest, bowels and skin, and particularly of children, will probably be more benefitted by a few weeks residence in the country than in any other situation.

Kind attentions may be relied on for moderate compensations.
Salem Gazette, Sept. 15, 1835.

To the Honorable Court of County Commissioners for the County of Essex :

The subscribers respectfully represent that the road leading from the meeting-house in Topsfield in said County to the Court House in Ipswich, is narrow, circuitous, so much incumbered with snow in winter as to be kept open with extreme difficulty, and that public convenience and necessity requires that the same should be widened and straightened.

They therefore request your honors to widen, straighten, and in several places to new locate ; or make such alterations in the same highway as your honors may deem expedient.

R. A. Merriam and 41 others.

Topsfield, Oct. 12th, 1835.

The County Commissioners advertised a hearing on this petition at the Topsfield Hotel on Dec. 12th.

Salem Gazette, November 6, 1835.

SUPREME COURT. We have copied in another column a brief report of a trial, which attracted some attention in this town, last week, viz, the cause of a libel, brought by Mr. ALFRED W. PIKE, of Topsfield, against Messrs. BEALS and GREENE, publishers of the Boston Morning Post. Readers will please to bear in mind, that this report is the statement of the defendants in the case, and will of course make just as large deductions from its impartiality as they may think this circumstance requires.

Salem Gazette, Dec. 1, 1835.

CASE OF ALFRED W. PIKE,

against CHARLES GORDON GREENE and WILLIAM BEALS, for alleged Libels on said Pike, published in the "Boston Morning Post," on the 2d and 14th of May last.—Damages laid at *ten thousand dollars*. The trial came on before the Supreme Judicial Court, holden at Salem, (His Honor Judge Putman on the Bench,) on Monday the 23d inst., and lasted til Saturday the 28th. Counsel for the Plaintiff, Rufus Choate and Asahel Huntington, Esqrs., for the Defendants, Leverett Saltonstall and George Wheatland, Esqrs.

It was stated in the Post on Monday last, in an editorial paragraph, announcing the commencement of this trial, that the Reporter would be present, for the purpose of reporting it for the Post. Facts, however, were developed in the progress of the trial, and incontrovertibly proved, and not even contested, of so extraordinary a character—unparalleled in the history of judicial proceedings—and so utterly improper to be published in a newspaper, that the original intention of giving in the columns of the Post a detailed report has been abandoned, but as considerable curiosity has been expressed by those who have become partially acquainted with the facts referred to, to learn the full particulars, a report in pamphlet form will be prepared and published with all possible expedition, but notwithstanding the exclusion of those facts which had a controlling weight with the jury, still there are others in the case sufficient to indicate the nature of the Libel, and the justification relied on by the Defendants.

Pike, the plaintiff, has been a teacher in classical schools, in Boston and various other places, for the past twenty years, and now is, and has been for the last year, the preceptor of the Topsfield Academy in this state. The Defendants are the publishers of the Boston Morning Post, in which appeared on the 2d of May last, a communication charging Mr. Pike with "brutal cruelty" towards Sarah B. Jay, a little girl whom he took to bring up, as one of his own children. The communication stated that Mr. Pike took her to Topsfield, where the child suffered the utmost cruelty, that "her food had been chiefly Indian meal and water, that she had been compelled to sleep on straw in an upper room, with scarcely covering enough to keep life in her, and during the last rigorous winter exposed so as to freeze her feet and hands badly, that he sent her to the Alms-House, from which, at her mother's request, he sent her back to Boston half naked and reduced to the lowest state of wretchedness."

In reply to this communication, a certificate dated "Topsfield May 6," and signed by seven highly respectable gentlemen of that town, was published in the Essex Register. This certificate stated that the signers had investigated the subject, and were satisfied that there was no just cause of complaint against Mr. and Mrs. Pike in respect to the girl. Her sickly appearance and diseased feet were declared "to be the consequence of her own personal conduct," etc. Mr. Greene copied this certificate into the Post on the 14th of May, and appended to it some severe and argumentative comments, which were alleged by the plaintiff to be more libellous than the original communication.

Among a countless host of other facts, it was proved by unimpeached and unimpeachable testimony, that in September, 1834, Mrs. Pike applied to Mrs. Howard, the child's mother, for her, she being then seven years old, that Mrs. Pike engaged to treat her as her own child, and educate her so as to qualify her to keep at school, etc., that, if the child became sick, or either party became dissatisfied, she was to be sent home, that she was of an amiable disposition, of considerable aptitude, and cleanly in her habits and about her work, that she required firm, but gentle treatment, and that it would not answer for more than one person to undertake to control her, and it was expressly stipulated "that Mrs. Pike would not allow any one but herself to govern her."

In November, Mr. Pike removed with his family to Topsfield., in December, while there was snow on the ground, the girl was seen, as often as six times a day, fetching water from the pump, without any bonnet, in a short-sleeved gown, and with her toes protruding through her shoes. Sometime in the course of the winter, the date not being fixed by any witness, numerous sores broke out in various parts of the child's body, and Mrs. Pike at different times, administered salts to her, and afterwards, and very properly gave her gruel.

Early in February, through disease, or some otherwise inexplicable cause, she fell into habits of extreme personal uncleanness, her feet being at the same time afflicted with chilblains. She was then put to sleep on a straw bed on the floor, as stated, for the remainder of the time she lived with Mr. Pike. After a short period her bed was never moved, nor was there ever any fire in the room. The witnesses for the plaintiff testified that, on account of her offensive appearance, she was kept in this chamber all the time, excepting school hours, when she was allowed to come down into the kitchen or run in the cellar for exercise. It was also testified by them, that *after* the child's feet became

sore it was the standing rule of the family, that she was not to fetch water. No physician was ever called to her, as she was not regarded as a sick child, because she had a great appetite. She was therefore treated as obstinate and sullen, and besides the rod, singular and unheard of methods were resorted to, to subdue her supposed disposition, and insupportable habits. She was compelled to take nauseous and unnatural substances, one of which, *and infinitely the LEAST revolting*, was ASSAFOETIDA. During this time, she became very thin and pale, and, in the language of the plaintiffs' witness, "looked as sick as little Joseph when they had the doctor to him." Finally, in April, Mr. Pike took the girl to the Topsfield almshouse, stating what her habits were, and that his wife could not live in the house with her, and adding that the child must be taken into the almshouse, for he "was afraid she would die on his hands." The overseers of the poor at Topsfield objected to keeping the child in the almshouse, because she did not belong there, and after a controversy with Mr. Pike on the subject, he sent a letter by one of them to the child's mother, informing her where her daughter was and she at once insisted upon having her brought home.

On the Monday following she was brought home, in such a diseased and helpless state as to create a great excitement in and about Myrtle Street, where Mrs. Howard, the mother, resided. Physicians were called in, and neighbors thronged the premises. The child's feet were gashed and ulcerated, and part of a little toe lost, from the effects of frost or chilblains, or both. She was described by the witnesses to be "destitute of flesh," and the hip to have cut through the skin. The testimony of the physicians—Flint, Jackson, Strong and Shattuck—was full and clear that she was very much diseased internally. Dr. Shattuck was summoned on the part of Mr. Pike, but was more decisive in his testimony than his medical brethren, as to the state of the little girl's health. He considered the external sores or wounds, and the toe, "as but a drop in the bucket, compared with the deep toned disease of her abdominal viscera," etc. Her complaint was of a chronic character, deeply seated—in other words, of long standing. Upon coming to the knowledge of these facts, a benevolent gentleman wrote the original communication which appeared in the Post, having first satisfied Mr. Greene of its truth.

About 10 witnesses were summoned, and the trial was conducted with as much skill and professional pertinacity as if it had been for the life or death of the plaintiff. The efforts of the respective counsel were arduous in the extreme, and indefa-

tigable—the cross-examination being conducted with great severity, and almost interminable minuteness. The closing arguments were upon the facts mainly, and avoided personality on both sides. The charge by JUDGE PUTMAN, on Saturday, was liberal towards the press, and the defendants, vindicating them from all express malice, but near the conclusion suggested that they had failed to prove that the child had been fed chiefly on Indian meal, but on the contrary had had the same food generally as the rest of the family. He asked the jury to look at the condition of the child when Mr. Pike took her from, and what it was when he sent her home to, her mother. He hoped the jury would, in considering the case, allow their minds to sink down to the naked facts, and not look at them in the aspect they assumed when mixed up with the eloquence or ingenuity of the counsel on either side. Thus instructed, the jury retired, and in an hour sent word to the Judge that they had agreed upon a verdict. At half past two they came into court, with a verdict for the plaintiff, giving him ONE DOLLAR damages.

This verdict throws the costs of the court upon the plaintiff, with the exceptions of *twenty five cents*.

N. B. The little girl was not examined as a witness by either party, and all the substantial matters of the defence were proved by witnesses not related to her. On the other hand, it was testified to by three members of Mr. Pike's family—his daughter, wife's mother and a young domestic—that she was well fed comfortably clad, and had a good supply of bed clothes.

Salem Gazette, December 1, 1835.

ESSEX COUNTY TEACHER'S ASSOCIATION.

The Sixth Annual Meeting of this Association will be held at Topsfield on Friday and Saturday the 4th and 5th of December inst. Lectures will be delivered by Roger S. Howard of Newburyport., Rev. Dr. Emerson, and Rev. Mr. John Wayland of Salem., Mr. Samuel R. Hall of Andover., Rev. Leonard Withington of Newbury., and Mr. Christopher Dunken of Cambridge. All the Lectures, by a vote of the Association, are to be followed by discussions.

Salem Gazette, Dec. 3, 1835.

TO THE HONORABLE COURT OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS, FOR
THE COUNTY OF ESSEX.

The Subscribers respectfully represent, that the road leading from the Meeting house in Topsfield, in said County, to the

Court House in Ipswich, is narrow, circuitous, so much incumbered with snow in the winter, as to be kept open with extreme difficulty, and that public convenience and necessity require that the same should be widened and straightened, and in several places to new locate, or make such alterations in the same Highway, as your Honors may deem expedient.

R. A. MERRIAM, and 39 others.

The County Commissioners advertised a hearing on the petition at the Topsfield Hotel on March 8th.

Salem Gazette, Jan. 29, 1836.

DIED, in Topsfield, Jacob Towne, Esq. aged 67 years, and 8 months. The family of the deceased not called upon alone to part with one whose loss is unspeakably great—and when we say that the town in which he lived has lost one of its most useful citizens, in the death of Mr. Towne, we speak the feelings of all who knew him. In early life he received a common education, such as was afforded the youth 60 years ago, but having a mind fraught with ambition for intellectual improvement, he has ever applied himself with that assiduity and success which characterises a scholar, and prepared himself for usefulness. His counsel has ever been sought in all most important town affairs, and obtained with decision and accuracy. Many important town offices were invested in him, the various duties of which he performed with correctness and fidelity. A seat in our present legislature has become vacated by his death—and when we say that no man has been more untiring during 50 years for the promotion and happiness for people among whom he lived, we delineate the character of Jacob Towne, Esq.

Comm.

Salem Gazette, April 7, 1836.

A man was examined, in Topsfield, on Saturday, for an alleged attempt to commit an aggravated offence. The examination was postponed, to await further evidence.

Salem Gazette, May 3, 1836.

ESSEX COUNTY TEACHER'S ASSOCIATION.

The semi-annual meeting of the Essex County Teacher's Association will be held at Topsfield, on FRIDAY and SATURDAY, the 20th and 21st May inst. Lectures, to be followed by Discussions will be delivered as follows : viz :

On Friday at 10 o'clock, a lecture by REV. SAMUEL NOTT, JR. of Wareham. Subject—"What is a good school?"

At half past 11 o'clock, a Lecture by ALFRED GREENLEAF, of Salem, on "Discipline."

At 2 o'clock, P. M. a Lecture by FREDERIC A. BARTON, of Andover, on "Co-operation between Parents and Teachers."

At half past 3 o'clock, a Lecture by REV. MR. DURANT of Newbury, on "The importance and best method of communicating Moral Instruction."

On Saturday, at half-past nine o'clock A. M. a Lecture by ROBERT RANTOUL, Esq. of Gloucester, on "Political Science as a branch of Popular Education."

At 11 o'clock, a Lecture by REV. DR. EMERSON, of Salem, on "The use of the Bible in Schools."

School Committees and friends of education are invited to attend.

DAVID CHOATE, Cor. Sec.
Salem Gazette, May 13, 1836.

The County Commissioners have granted innholder's licenses to John Rea and Susannah Cummings of Topsfield, the latter being authorized to sell fermented liquors only.

Salem Gazette, Aug. 2, 1836.

Dr. *Jeremiah Stone*, of Topsfield, has been appointed, by Brig. Gen. Low, Brigade Major and Inspector of the 2d Brigade, 2d Division, in place of *Samuel W. Stickney, Esq.* promoted.

Salem Gazette, Aug. 2, 1836.

NOTICE. A meeting of the Board of managers of the Essex County Anti-Slavery Society will be held at the Hotel in Topsfield on the second Wednesday of August, at 2 o'clock P. M. for special business. Per order of the Board.

J. G. WHITTIER, Sec'ty.
Salem Gazette, Aug. 9, 1836.

A new Light Infantry Company has been formed in Topsfield, and will make its appearance this fall with full ranks, and in an elegant uniform which they are having made in this city. The company is commanded by Capt. CONANT.

Salem Gazette, Sept. 16, 1836.

The troops of the 2d Brigade 2d Division, will parade for inspection and review, at *Topsfield*, on Tuesday, the fourth of

October. They consist of a Regiment of Light Infantry, under Colonel Chauncey Hastings, a Battalion of Cavalry under Major Dodge, and a Battalion of Artillery under Major Bradbury. They will be inspected by Major Jere'h Stone of Topsfield, and reviewed by Brigadier General Low. The whole number of companies included in this parade will be thirteen,—two of Cavalry, two of Artillery, and nine of Light Infantry. An uncommonly fine military display may be expected from so large an assemblage of the elite troops of the northern section of this country.

Salem Gazette, Sept. 24, 1836.

FIRE IN TOPSFIELD.

On Monday morning a fire broke out in the premises of Mr. John Rea Jr. in Topsfield, by which the Tavern House, together with a large barn, and a store belonging to that gentleman, were destroyed.

We are informed by persons who were at the spot, that the fire originated in the barn, the contents of which—a large quantity of hay, grain, etc., two horses, several hogs, two chaises and two or three wagons, were destroyed.

Considerable of the house furniture was consumed, and also many other articles in the house, including a gold watch. Mr. Perley's store on the opposite side of the street, was preserved with great difficulty. It is supposed that the fire was the work of an incendiary as it was first discovered in a part of the barn not occupied as a tavern stable, and into which no one had been known to carry a light.

Mr. Rea was aroused at about one o'clock and the alarm reached Salem a little before two. Two engines from Danvers and one from New Rowley were present.

Engines also started from Salem—that from Boston Street had made considerable progress on the road when it was stopped by a message from the Chief Engineer of our Fire Department, who was at the fire.

☞ After the fire was in type, we received from a correspondent an account of the fire, in which he says—"Mr. Rea saved literally nothing from the devouring element. He had barely time to save the lives of himself and family. The whole loss is estimated at five thousand dollars. There was an insurance by the Merrimack Mutual Fire Ins. Co. (Andover) of two thousand dollars on the buildings which however was held for the benefit of an individual having a mortgage of the premises.

The Loss to Mr. Rea is total, and we hope a liberal public will remember him in this hour of calamity and need.

His whole substance is consumed in a night, and all his prospects for the support of himself and his family blasted, as it were, in an instant.

He has the sympathies of his townsmen, and we hope they, and others, of their abundance will give him substantial proofs by their deeds, as well as by their words.


This is the first considerable fire which has ever taken place in the town, from its settlement, and we regret to add, that it was, beyond question, the work of an incendiary.

Topsfield, Oct. 17, 1836.

Salem Gazette, Oct. 18, 1836.

No doubt is entertained in Topsfield, that the late fire in that town was caused by an incendiary, It will be seen that the Selectman have offered a reward for the detention of the villain who could commit so great a crime.


Salem Gazette, Oct. 21, 1836.

 The subscriber presents his thanks to his townsmen for their prompt, though unsuccessful attempts to save his property from destruction by fire, on the morning of the 17th inst.

Topsfield, Oct. 19, 1836.

JOHN REA.

Salem Gazette, Oct. 21, 1836.

 The subscribers tender their thanks to their fellow townsmen for their unwearied efforts in saving their property, when in the most eminent danger of being destroyed by the burning of Capt. John Rea's establishment.

They also tender their thanks to the Firemen of Danvers and Rowley, for their prompt attendance when notified of the danger of our village, and the good feeling manifested on the occasion.

Frederick Perley
Samuel Gould
John Wright
Benj. Kimball.

Topsfield, Oct. 19, 1836.


Salem Gazette, Oct. 21, 1836.

CARD. The Selectman of Topsfield, tender their thanks to the several Engine Companies, and other citizens, for their prompt and ready assistance at the Fire at Topfield Village on the 17th instant.

William Hubbard, } Selectmen
Samuel Bradstreet, } of
David Towne. } Topsfield.

Oct. 20, 1836.

Salem Gazette, Oct. 21, 1836.

 The members of the DANVERS ENGINE COMPANY No.3 return their strong gratitude to Frederick Perley and those citizens of Topsfield who so liberally provided them with refreshments whilst there, and conveyance home from the late fire in that town.

Ezekiel Osborn, Clerk.

Danvers, Oct. 21, 1836.

Salem Gazette, Oct. 21, 1836.

Two Hundred Dollars Reward. WHEREAS, there is reason to believe that the Fire in Topsfield Village on Monday morning, 16th inst. which consumed the Dwelling House and other buildings of Capt. John Rea, was the work of an incendiary, the above reward will be paid to any person who shall furnish information which will lead to the detection and conviction of the perpetrator.

WILLIAM HUBBARD, }
SAM'L BRADSTREET, } Selectman.
DAVID TOWNE. }

Topsfield, Oct. 20, 1836.

Salem Gazette, Oct. 21, 1836.

We learn that the Light Infantry Company, lately formed in Topsfield, called the Topsfield Warren Blues, will celebrate their first Anniversary by a public parade on Thursday next, accompanied by the Boston Brass Band, when a new and elegant standard (painted by Mr. Luke R. Prince, jr. of Beverly), will be presented to the Company by the Ladies of Topsfield.

Salem Gazette, Oct. 25, 1836.

CARD. The Boxford Washington Guards, tender their grateful acknowledgements to the Topsfield Warren Blues, for the kindness, hospitality, and good feelings toward them on the 27th inst.

A. W. Perley, Clerk.

Boxford, Oct. 31

CARD. The Boxford Washington Guards, tender their sincere thanks to Asa Pingree, and Wm. Munday, Esq's, for the politeness and liberality towards the corps on the 27th inst.

A. W. Perley, Clerk.

Boxford, Oct. 31.

Salem Gazette, Nov. 8, 1836.

ESSEX CO. TEACHER'S ASSOCIATION. The 7th Annual Meeting of the *Essex County Teacher's Association* will be held at Topsfield, on *Friday* and *Saturday*, the 2d and 3d December next.

The following Lectures may be expected viz.—

ON FRIDAY,

At 10 o'clock, A. M., a Lecture on Originalty in the Teacher, by Mr. David Choate, of Essex.

At 11 o'clock, a Lecture on the comparative merits of Private and Common Schools, by Rev. Theodore Edson, of Lowell. At 2 o'clock, P. M., a Lecture on the subject of Grammer, by Dr. Daniel Perley, of Lynn. At 3 o'clock, a Lecture on the same subject, by Mr. Samuel R. Hall of Andover.

ON SATURDAY.

At half past 9, A. M. a Lecture on Teaching Orthography, by Mr. Frederick A. Adams, of Andover. At half past 11, a Lecture by Rev. G. B. Perry, of Bradfrod, subject, What favorable influence can the Christian Ministry exert upon Common Schools."

By a vote of the Association all Lectures will be followed by discussions.

The session will commence at 9 o'clock, A. M. on Friday, and close at noon on Saturday.

Teachers of both sexes, members of school committees, and friends of education generally, are respectfully invited to be present, and contribute to the interest of the occasion.

Per order,

JOHN BATCHELDER,

Rec. Sec'y.

Lynn, Nov. 14, 1836.

Salem Gazette, Nov. 25, 1836.

CAPITAL CASE.

A Magistrates' Court was held last week at Topsfield before John W. Proctor, Esq., for the examination of Miss Eliza Porter Bradstreet, a maiden lady of a respectable family, on a complaint made against her, charging her with the crime of Arson, in setting fire to the dwelling house and buildings of Capt. John Rea, in Topsfield, a few weeks since.

The examination is not finished.

Salem Gazette, Dec. 13, 1836.

By consent of parties and for reasons that were thought sufficient, the time for the hearing in relation to the charge of setting fire to the buildings of Capt. Rea in Topsfield on the 17th of Oct. last (mentioned in Tuesday Gazette) is postponed to Monday, Feby 20.

Salem Gazette, Dec. 16, 1836.

ANOTHER FIRE IN TOPSFIELD.

Last Monday at 3 P. M. a fire broke out in the barn of Mr. Josiah Gould of Topsfield, which was consumed with all his winter stock of hay and grain, together with a wood shed, etc. etc.

Loss estimated at about \$1000.

By great exertions the adjoining dwelling house owned by Capt Kilham was saved.

There is we learn no way of accounting for this fire. Mr. Gould is a worthy, hard laboring man, and his loss is very severe.

Salem Gazette, Dec. 16, 1836.

CARDS. The subscriber tenders his thanks to his fellow townsmen and others, for their unwearied exertions at the fire on the 12th inst. by which his dwelling house was saved when in imminent danger.

JOSIAH GOULD.

Topsfield, Dec. 15.

The subscriber tenders his thanks to his fellow townsmen and others, for their unwearied exertions in saving his property, when in imminent danger of being destroyed, by the burning of Mr. Josiah Gould's barn on the 12th inst.

ISAAC KILHAM.

Topsfield, Dec. 15.

Salem Gazette, Dec. 23, 1836.

NOTICE. The Association of Salem and Vicinity will meet at the house of Rev. Mr. McEwen in Topsfield, on Tuesday, Jan. 3, 1837, at 9 o'clock, A. M.

S. M. WORCESTER, Scribe.
Salem Gazette, Jan. 3, 1837.

FOR THE SALEM GAZETTE.

Mr. Editor—Will you please to insert in your paper the following interesting facts of a cow raised and owned by Mr. Samuel Bradstreet of this town, which he killed this winter at the age of 21 years. This cow has brought him 18 calves, which have been worth when five weeks old \$5 each, \$ 90 00

She has furnished him at a moderate calculation 6 quarts of milk per day for 9 months in each of the last 18 years, which has been worth 5 cents per quart, making the sum of 1474 20

Now Mr. Bradstreet goes into this nice calculation, and says, when I killed "Old Star," this winter, she was worth at least, for she was very fat, \$25. 25 00

\$1589 20

Then he sets to "Old Star's" Dr. as follows:

Had I killed her when a calf she would have been worth \$ 5 00

Cost for keeping till she was 3 years old, 15 00

Cost for keeping the last 18 years at \$20 per year. 360 00

380 00

Balance in favor of "Old Star," \$1209 20

Now, Mr. Editor, perhaps some may doubt the credibility of the above statement, but I have not the least doubt but that Mr. Bradstreet has been perfectly honest in the account which he has kept between himself and "Old Star." If he has deviated in any particular, it is in the charges he has made for her keeping, as all who know the worth of keeping a cow will agree with me in saying that \$20 is more than an average worth the last eighteen years. I am fully persuaded that in this county not an equal is to be found for Mr. Bradstreet's "Old Star."

Topsfield, Jan. 28, 1837.

Salem Gazette, Jan. 31, 1837.

Topsfield, Jan. 30, 1837.

MR. EDITOR—On the 24th inst. there was killed in Boxford, by Mr. Spofford, a large Wildcat, which had taken possession of the barn, and was indulging in the pleasures of life by feasting on two fat hens. He weighed 75 pounds, and measured from the tip of his nose to the end of his tail 4 and a half feet.

Communicated.

Salem Gazette, Feb. 3, 1837.

In the House [of Representatives] Mr. Andrew of Salem, presented a petition of Nathaniel Conant and others, praying payment of compensation for military services to the members of a Light Infantry Company in Topsfield.

Salem Gazette, Feb. 7, 1837.

HON. NEHEMIAH CLEVELAND, whose death is announced in our obituary column, was one of the most respected and distinguished citizens of Essex County. He was the son of the eminent divine, Rev. John Cleaveland, of Essex, and under the charge of his pious and learned father received a good education in literature and virtuous principles. Dr. Cleaveland possessed a vigorous mind, a sound judgment, and extensive knowledge. His long life has been spent in acts of usefulness, and a conscientious discharge of all the duties of life. Integrity, justice, benevolence, and piety controlled his thoughts and actions. He was zealously devoted, through life, to the promotion of the interests of the best institutions, of the church, and of his country. In early life, his ardent patriotism compelled him to take arms and serve several years in the revolutionary army. The suffrages of his fellow citizens, for a series of years placed him in the Senate of our State. His good sense, vivacity, and familiar acquaintance with the interesting scenes of our history, and his social intercourse with the eminent citizens of our State in past times, rendered his conversation attractive and instructive. In all the relations of life he fulfilled his duty, and his family, his friends, and the whole community will cherish his memory with reverence and respect.

Salem Gazette, Feb. 28, 1837.

The examination of Elizabeth P. Bradstreet on a charge of arson, was resumed on Tuesday last at Topsfield, before Justices Mack and Proctor, and continued till Friday evening, and was then adjourned to tomorrow.

Salem Gazette, Feb. 28, 1837.

The examination of Miss Bradstreet at Topsfield, before Justices, Mack and Proctor, was completed on Friday last, and after able and eloquent arguments by Mr. Huntington, District Attorney for the government, and Mr. Saltonstall, counsel for the accused, the decision was that there were no sufficient grounds for her commitment and she was discharged.

So strong was the feeling in Topsfield, in her favor, that her acquittal was hailed with various demonstrations of joy.

[Register.]

Salem Gazette, Mar. 7, 1837.

GENERAL COURT.

The Resolve on the petition of Nath'l Conant and others, was taken up in the orders of the day. This resolve provides for paying the members of the "Warren Blues," a Light Infantry Company in Topsfield, the sum of five dollars each for their military services for 1836, being the sum allowed by law to volunteer companies, although this corps was not fully organized at the last May inspection. Mr. Billings of Conway, called for the facts in relation to this case. Mr. Andrew, of Salem, chairman of the Military committee on the part of the House, answered the call. A motion for indefinite postponement was made, and supported by several gentlemen. Messrs. Kinsman and Blake of Boston, and Andrew of Salem, opposed the motion; and the latter gentleman gave an account of the formation, the necessity for, and the popularity of this company, in the town of Topsfield—and stated, that upon the decision of this question depended in a great degree the fate of the Volunteer companies; for unless this was received with favor by the House, much of that zeal now enlisted in the cause, would be dampened, &c. The motion to postpone was lost, and the Resolve passed, by a majority of about fifty.

Salem Gazette, Mar. 14, 1837.

NOTICE.

FREDERICK J. MERRIAM, of Topsfield, Drover, has assigned, for the benefit of all his creditors, all his property, real and personal, not exempted by law from attachment.

Creditors may become parties to the assignment by calling on

R. A. MERRIAM,
NATH'L PERLEY.

Topsfield, April 14, 1837.

Assignees.

Salem Gazette, Apr. 25, 1837.

BY ORDER OF COURT.

On the 11th of May next, at 2 o'clock, P. M. will be sold by Auction,

Part of the Farm now occupied by JOSHUA TOWNE, of Topsfield, yeoman, for the payment of his debts. Terms made known at the sale.

Topsfield, April 25, 1837.

SAMUEL BRADSTREET,
Guard ad.
Salem Gazette, May 5, 1837.

Boarding and Tuition.

SIX small Boys and Girls may receive Board, Tuition, and parental care in the family of the subscriber.

JAMES F. McEWEN.

Topsfield, May 5, 1837.

Salem Gazette, May 9, 1837.

ESSEX COUNTY TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION.

The semi-annual meeting of the *Essex County Teachers' Association* will be held at Topsfield on FRIDAY and SATURDAY, the 26th and 27th of the present month, May :—The following Lectures may be expected :—

ON FRIDAY,

At 10 o'clock A. M. a lecture on Grammar by Mr. Samuel R. Hall of Andover.

At 2 P. M. a lecture on "Defects of Common Schools," by Rev. Milton P. Braman of Danvers.

ON SATURDAY,

At half past nine A. M. a lecture on Discipline, by Mr. Moses Burbank of Hampton Falls.

At half past ten o'clock, a lecture on English Composition, by Newton E. Marble of Dover.

By a vote of the Association all lectures are followed by discussions.

The session will commence at 9 o'clock A. M. on Friday, and close at noon on Saturday.

Teachers of both sexes, members of school Committees, and

the friends of education generally are respectfully invited to be present and contribute to the interest of the occasion,

Per order,

J. BATCHELDER, Rec. Sec.

Lynn, May 22, 1837.

Salem Gazette, May 23, 1837.

HAVERHILL AND CONCORD STAGE.

[Wood cut of a stagecoach]

THE Stage for Haverhill and Concord, starts from Salem, at 7 o'clock in the morning, on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays. Stage Office, Lafayette Coffee House.

Salem, July 4, 1837.

Salem Gazette, July 4, 1837.

Essex Court of County Commissioners, July Term, 1837.

The proposed new road in Topsfield and Hamilton, prayed for by S. Bradstreet and others, is not granted.

A license was granted at the Topsfield Hotel, to a new occupant, since the last term—and this is the only license granted.

On examining the votes for County Treasurer, it was found that there were no returns from Amesbury, Marblehead and Middleton, and that the votes from Andover, Bradford, Haverhill, Essex and Topsfield, were not certified in the form required by law. Officers of towns should be careful to know their duty, and to do it correctly.

Salem Gazette, July 18, 1837.

The Salem Mechanic Light Infantry carried off ninety men in uniform, early on Wednesday morning. They were hospitably entertained with a collation, in front of the Village Bank, by citizens of North Danvers. At the Topsfield line, they were met by the Topsfield Warren Blues, who escorted the Mechanics to the Hotel, where both companies partook of a sumptuous breakfast.

Salem Gazette, July 28, 1837.

CAMPAIGN

OF THE

SALEM MECHANIC LIGHT INFANTRY.

IN CAMP—NEW ROWLEY }

Wednesday Evening, July 26, 1837. }

Took up our line of march from Salem to Newburyport, 15 minutes past 5, A. M., by Buffum's Corner to North Danvers,

to the Village Bank, favored with one of the most delightful summer mornings, and there entertained with a hot breakfast, which was very acceptable, provided by the citizens of North Danvers. Again took up our march to Topsfield—were met on the dividing line by the Topsfield Light Infantry, under the command of Capt. Conant, and escorted to Topsfield, and again entertained at the house of Capt. Munday, with a bounteous collation, provided by the Topsfield Warren Blues. After partaking, formed Morning Parade—Company Orders for the day were read by the Adjutant. Lt. Kimball Officer of the day—Serg't Stedman Officer of the Police. Again took up our march to New Rowley, accompanied by Capt. Conant's Company. After a short march, partook of the refreshments by the politeness of Mr. John Peabody, of Boxford. Parted with our Topsfield friends, and after marching a short distance were met by the New Rowley Lafayette Guards, under the command of Capt. Howe—escorted by the same into New Rowley, to our place of encampment. [The remainder of the account relates to Newburyport, Ipswich, etc.]

Salem Gazette, Aug. 1, 1837.

GREAT TURNIP. We were shown yesterday an enormous Turnip, of the common round sort, raised in Topsfield. It was 26 inches in diameter, and nearly 4, in thickness.

Salem Gazette, Aug. 25, 1837.

ESSEX AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY.

The Annual Exhibition by the Society will be at Topsfield, on Wednesday, September 27th.

All claims for premiums to be awarded on the day of exhibition, must be entered with the Secretary of the Society, or his agent, on or before 9 o'clock, A. M., of that day.

All other claims for premiums must be handed or forwarded to the Secretary in writing.

All articles of domestic manufacture must be entered and deposited at the Hall, to be provided for this purpose, by 9 o'clock, A. M.

These articles will be examined and arranged by the Committee,—and at 12 o'clock, will be opened for public examination.

All animals or articles exhibited must remain for public inspection until 3 o'clock, P. M.

The Ploughing Match will take place at 10 o'clock, A. M.

Butter, Cheese, Fruits and Flowers, will be deposited in the Hall to be provided for this purpose.

Agricultural Implements will be deposited in the same room.

Gentlemen, who have articles or fruit that will increase the interest of the show, are respectfully requested to bring them forward.

The Members of the Society and invisted guests, will dine together at the VILLAGE HOTEL, at 1 o'clock, P. M. Tickets for the dinner can be obtained of Mr. Wm. Munday.

At 3 o'clock, P. M., there will be a meeting of the Society at the Meeting House, where an Address will be delivered by the Rev. N. Gage of Haverhill,—and the Reports of Committees read, and premiums awarded, &c. The Annual Meeting for the choice of Officers, and transaction of the business of the Society will then follow.

In the morning the Trustees will meet at Mr. Munday's Hotel, where the Secretary will be ready to receive entries, &c. &c.

By order of the Committee of Arrangements.

R. A. MERRIAM, Chairman.

J. W. PROCTOR, Sec'y.

Topsfield, Sept. 14, 1837.

Salem Gazette, Sept. 15, 1837.

Among the military companies present at the annual inspection and review at West Bradford was one from Topsfield.

Salem Gazette, Sept. 15, 1837.

A short time since, some rogue entered the Methodist Meeting House in Topsfield, and stole quite a number of Bibles, Hymn Books, &c.

The Dwelling House of Dr. Merriam, in Topsfield, was entered about the same time, in the middle of the day, while the family was absent, and some change which was in a box was taken, but of a small amount. The robber took several articles of wearing apparel, and broke open trunks and scattered their contents about the house.

Salem Gazette, Sept. 19, 1837.

Res. Jas. F. McEwen of Topsfield was elected Secretary of the Essex County Temperance Society at a meeting held Sept. 15th. at the Tabernacle church, Salem.

Salem Gazette, Sept. 26, 1837.

The annual Agricultural Festival was held at Topsfield, on Wednesday, 27th ult., and the farming interest from every part of the county was fully and respectably represented.

The show of animals was not numerous, but there were some superior cows, and excellent working oxen. The number of fat cattle was small; there were a few young horses; there were two lots of swine of a good description and condition; of sheep there were none. The ploughing match was spiritedly contested, and much of the work was fine; the ploughs of an approved description; the teams well trained, and the ploughmen and drivers skillful and ambitious.

Of domestic and household manufactures the collection was not extensive, but commendable for the industry, patience and skill exhibited. The vegetables made a good display; there was much superior fruit, and many a beautiful boquet of flowers. There were valuable specimens of Indian corn exhibited; and other useful vegetables and products.

The Address in the afternoon, by the Rev. Mr. Gage, of Haverhill, was deservedly well received, evincing good taste and good sense; and the day was spent without any circumstance to disturb its festivities, and in a highly agreeable and useful manner.

The Address was followed by the Reports of the Committees, which were, as always, listened to with a strong interest; and we cannot doubt were made up in the exercise of a sound and discriminating judgment, reluctant to give offence, but conscientious in the performance of duty.

These exhibitions deserve every encouragement, and since the improvement in public manners which has taken place by the diminution, we wish we could say, the entire abolition, of the facilities and excitements to intemperance, many, and the only great objections to these celebrations have been removed. They bring the farmers together under circumstances adapted to excite the deepest gratitude to a beneficent Providence; they make them acquainted with each other, and produce a most beneficial interchange of kind affections and sympathies; they excite inquiry and diffuse much useful information of the condition and the improvements in agriculture and domestic industry and economy, and they produce a manly and animated competition, unmixed with any ill feelings, because here there is no monopoly; the field is open to all; and the beneficial results are in every case diffused, and universally shared by all.

A premium of \$20 was awarded the citizens of Topsfield for a team of 40 yoke of working oxen.

Salem Gazette, Oct. 3, 1837.

John Wright of Topsfield has been elected one of the Directors of the Village Bank in Danvers.

Salem Gazette, Oct. 17, 1837.

TOPSFIELD BRIDGE. The bridge on the Newburyport Turnpike, in Topsfield, fell through last week, and is now impassable.
Salem Gazette, Dec. 5, 1837.

DIED. At Topsfield, Mr. John Fisk, 47. He died very suddenly in the street.

Salem Gazette, Dec. 8, 1837.

COURT CALENDAR.

The court of Common Pleas commenced its session in Ipswich on Monday last. Judge Strong on the bench. We learn that about 250 new civil actions were entered, a rather larger number than usual. The first civil trial, commenced after the calling of the docket was concluded on Tuesday afternoon, between Asa Pingree of Topsfield, Pltf., and Francis Curtis of Boxford, Dft. It is an action of *trover*, technically so called, which alleges that the pltf. was owner of certain to wit one cord of pine slabs, of the value of \$3, which the pltf. *lost*, and which came into the possession of the dft. by *finding*, who refused to deliver the same one cord of pine slabs to the pltf. on demand, but converted the same to his own use. The form of the declaration being purely technical, the question for trial is whether the dft. had, previously to the date of the writ, any slabs in his possession which rightfully belonged to the pltf. About one hundred witnesses are in attendance. This action was originally tried before the police court in Salem, and on appeal was tried at the June term of the P. C., consuming three days time of the court, and the jury disagreed. The case is conducted with a zeal and ingenuity worthy a much better cause by Samuel H. Mann, Esq., of Lowell, for the pltf. and L. Saltonstall and N. J. Lord, Esqrs. of Salem for the dft.

Salem Gazette, Dec. 26, 1837.

At a Court of County Commissioners, held last Tuesday, a petition was presented by Charles H. Holmes and others, for a road in Topsfield, from near the house of Benjamin Symonds, to near the centre school house.

Salem Gazette, Dec. 29, 1837.

DIED. In Topsfield, on the 16th inst., Mrs. Anna Averill, aged 40. She was amiable in natural character, and seriously inclined from childhood, and for several of the last years of her life, the hopeful subject of true faith in Christ. She has long been afflicted with poor health, when somewhat more than a year

ago it became evident that the fatal disease, *consumption*, was seated on her. From that time suffering much pain, she looked forward to her dissolution with christian resignation, and when death finally approached, she met his embrace without fear, as she then felt that she could commit herself to the Savior of sinners.

Com.

Salem Gazette, Jan. 19, 1838.

DIED. In Topsfield, Mr. Moses Wildes, aged 60; Mr. Robert Lake, aged 31; Mr. Richard Osborn, a revolutionary soldier, aged 99.

Salem Gazette, Jan. 23, 1838.

STATISTICS OF ESSEX COUNTY.

We copy the following account of the condition of certain branches of industry in the County of Essex, from the "Statistical Tables," prepared by the Secretary of the Commonwealth, in compliance with a Act of the Legislature, of 19th April last.

TOPSFIELD.

Common Sheep, 255, wool produced 765 lbs., average weight of fleece 3 lbs., value of wool 306, capital invested 1530.

Boots manufactured 900 pairs, Shoes 124,396 pairs; value of boots and shoes, 98,676, males employed 272, females 269.

Salem Gazette, Feb. 6, 1838.

NEW LINE OF STAGES.

A new line of Stages has been established between Salem and Haverhill. Leaving Salem on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays at 9½ o'clock A. M. arriving in Haverhill at 1 o'clock on said days. Leaving Haverhill on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays, at 11½ o'clock A. M. arriving in Salem at 3 o'clock, on said days.

This line is connected in Salem with other Stages, running to and from Boston, Gloucester, Ipswich, Marblehead and other places. And is connected in New Rowley with a stage running on Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays, to Amesbury Factory Village, Exeter and Dover;—and with a stage running on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays, to Lowell.

On Mondays a stage will leave New Rowley for the Rail Road in Bradford, in season for the morning cars.—And on Saturdays will leave for New Rowley after the arrival of the evening cars.

Books kept at the Lafayette Coffee House, and Salem Hotel.

At the Eagle House in Haverhill and at Savory's Hotel in New Rowley.

Jan. 24, 1838.

Salem Gazette, Feb. 6, 1838.

[Wood cut of a stage coach.]

Haverhill and Concord Stage.

THE Stage for Haverhill and Concord starts from Salem, at 7 o'clock in the morning, on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays. Stage office, Lafayette Coffee House.

Salem, July 4, 1837.

Salem Gazette, Feb. 16, 1838.

COUNTY COMMISSIONERS.

The Whigs of Essex County are requested to send the usual number of delegates to a convention for the nomination of candidates for County Commissioners,—at Topsfield, on MONDAY NEXT, 23d inst., at 10 o'clock in the forenoon.

This notice is issued, in compliance with an unanimous vote of the Whig members of the Essex County delegation in the Legislature.

Salem, April 17.

Salem Gazette, April 17, 1838.

MR. FOOTE—In reading the Gazette of Tuesday, I noticed the calling of a "Convention" to be held at Topsfield on Monday next, for the nomination of County Commissioners. As there was no place of meeting defined, perhaps the delegates who attend would not know to which Hotel it would be at without some further notice.

Therefore I would suggest the idea (if no particular place is determined upon) good accommodations may be had at the "Village Hotel," kept by Capt. Wm. Munday. G.

Topsfield, April 18, 1838.

Salem Gazette, April 20, 1838.

NOTICE

Is hereby given that SAMUEL GOULD hath this day assigned to the subscribers all his property, for the benefit of his creditors.

THOMAS AVERILL,
CHARLES GOULD.

Topsfield, April 27, 1838.

Salem Gazette, May 4, 1838.

NOTICE

Is hereby given, that ANSEL GOULD hath this day assigned to the subscribers all his property, for the benefit of his creditors.

JOSIAH BRADSTREET,
JOHN BRADSTREET.

Topsfield, May 19, 1838.

Salem Gazette, May 25, 1838.

A few Invalid Boarders

May be accomodated in Topsfield, with board, horse and carriage exercise, bathing, &c. Enquire of

DR. R. A. MERRIAM.

Topsfield, June 19, 1838.

Salem Gazette, June 19, 1838.

TOPSFIELD HOTEL. We notice with pleasure that this old and respectable establishment has fallen into the hands of Mr. Holland, for many years known to all travellers on the great Eastern route, as one of the most intelligent, obliging, and temperate of that exemplary body of drivers.

Salem Gazette, July 13, 1838.

At a meeting of the County Commissioners held last Tuesday morning, a petition was presented from the selectmen of Topsfield, for the discontinuance of a town way in Topsfield.

Salem Gazette, July 13, 1838.

TOPSFIELD HOTEL.

The subscriber has taken the above very spacious and commodious Hotel, on the Boston and Newburyport Turnpike, and has fitted up the same in the best manner for travellers and boarders. The situation is one of the most commanding and delightful in the country; the distance is but 20 miles from Boston, 9 miles from Salem, and 12 from Newburyport, and it is believed that few places in the vicinity of the metropolis present so many inducements for a summer residence.

The apartments are spacious and airy; the table will be supplied with the choicest products of the market, and every attention shown to individuals and families, whether they remain for a single night, or during the warm season.

JOHN HOLLAND.

Topsfield, July 13.

Salem Gazette, July 27, 1838.

To the Hon. the County Commissioners for the County of Essex, respectfully represent the subscribers, selectmen of Topsfield, in said County,

THAT on the sixteenth day of April last, a town-way was located in said Topsfield, beginning at a stake one rod easterly from the corner of John Sawyer's shop, thence N. 748 E. to a point on the westerly side of the Haverhill road at a point forty four feet from the southeasterly corner of Richard Phillips jr's dwellinghouse; which way in the opinion of many of the Inhabitants of said Topsfield it would be highly expedient to discontinue. And the inhabitants of said Topsfield at a legal town meeting held for that purpose, on the twelfth day of June last, "Voted, that the Selectmen may be authorised and directed to petition the County Commissioners at the July term, to discontinue the road recently laid out near the meeting house on the petition of Charles H. Holmes and others."

Wherefore, in pursuance of said vote and instruction, your petitioners respectfully pray that after a hearing in the premises, the said way may be discontinued.

CORNELIUS K. BRADSTREET,	} Select men of Tops- field.
NATHANIEL PERLEY,	
WILLIAM RAY,	
MOSES WILDES,	
A. S. PEABODY,	

The Commissioners appointed a public hearing at the Topsfield Hotel on Aug. 15, 1838 at 9 A. M.

Salem Gazette, July 27, 1838.

NARROW ESCAPE. The Village Hotel, at Topsfield, kept by Mr. Munday, had a narrow escape from fire, on Friday night last. A traveller had thrown the end of his cigar into one of those disgusting objects "a spittoon," filled with sawdust, and nothing occurred to lead to a suspicion of any harm from it before the household retired to rest. It seems, however, that the sawdust ignited slowly, and about two o'clock in the morning a hostler sleeping in the bar room was awaked by a suffocating smoke. It was soon ascertained that the sawdust and box containing it were consumed, and that a large hole was burnt through the floor. With a little fresh air, and a little more time, the house would probably have been destroyed.

Salem Gazette, Aug. 10, 1838.

Take Notice.

STRAYED or stolen from the yard of the subscriber last Sunday night, one LIGHT RED COW, with a white face, about ten years old, one DARK RED COW, with large horns, about eight years old, one RED COW, about seven years old—Whoever will return said cows, or give information where they may be found, shall be well rewarded.

BENJAMIN PIKE.

Topsfield, Aug. 21.

Salem Gazette, Aug. 21, 1838.

The three cows, advertised in Tuesday's paper, were stolen from the pen, in Topsfield, on Sunday night last, and recovered on Monday morning. The thief is believed to be well known, but has escaped for the present. The cows were *tracked* all the way from Topsfield to Saugus, where they were found in the pound, having been driven through the toll-gate before sunrise that morning. They were offered for sale to the gatekeeper; and shortly afterward the thief was met by a couple of Topsfield men, who were unacquainted with the robbery. This meeting frightened him, probably, and he left the cows, who strayed back toward the toll-gate, where they were stopped and impounded.

Salem Gazette, Aug. 24, 1838.

TOPSFIELD, September 1st, 1838.

MR. EDITOR:—Will you please put in your paper the following:

GREAT GENEROSITY,—A gentleman in the Town of T—— found a small wallet (or pocket book,) in the town of M——. The gentleman did not ask the owner only ONE dollar for it.

Topsfield.

Salem Gazette, Sept. 4, 1838.

ESSEX AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY.

The Annual Exhibition by the Society will be at Topsfield, on Thursday, September 27th.

The Trustees and Committees will meet at the house of Mr. WILLIAM MUNDAY, at 9 o'clock, A. M.

All claims for premiums, to be awarded on the day of exhibition, must be entered with the Secretary of the Society, or his agent, on or before 9 o'clock, A. M., on that day.

All other claims for premiums must be handed or forwarded to the Secretary in writing.

All articles of Domestic Manufacture must be entered with the Agent of the Secretary, at the Hall, where they will be exhibited.

After the Committee have closed their examination (say about 12 o'clock), the Hall will be open for visitors.

Butter, Cheese, Fruits and Flowers, will be deposited, under the direction of the several committees, who have charge of these subjects.

All animals or articles exhibited, will be required to remain for the inspection of the public until 2 o'clock P. M.

The Ploughing Match will take place, under the direction of the committees on this subject, at 10 o'clock A. M.

The trial of Oxen and the examination of horses, will be immediately after.

Gentlemen who have fine fruits or superior vegetable productions of any kind, and who feel an interest in advancing the objects of the Society and sustaining the character of the County, are respectfully requested to bring them forward.

The members of the Society and invited guests will dine together at Mr. MUNDAY'S at half-past 1 o'clock.

At 3 o'clock, P. M., the Society will meet at the Meeting House, to hear an Address by the Rev. Mr. WITHINGTON, of Newbury; after which the Reports of the several committees will be submitted, and the usual business of the Annual Meeting transacted.

By order of the Committee of Arrangements.

Attest, J. W. PROCTOR, *Sec'ry*

Topsfield, Sept. 8, 1838.

Salem Gazette, Sept. 11, 1838.

TOPSFIELD. Mr. Edward Hood has been appointed Postmaster at Topsfield, and the post office has been removed from the Hotel into the village.

Salem Gazette, September 18, 1838.

DIED. In Topsfield, on Thursday last, in the 30th year of her age, Miss Eunice Wells, daughter of Mr. Nathaniel Wells. It need not be said to those who were acquainted with the deceased that in her death we have sustained a loss which is irreparable. In the earlier part of her life she at all times exercised that uniformity of character and amiableness in her disposition which secured to her parents, brothers and sisters her constant and never tiring efforts to promote their happiness and

win to herself that affection from them which is merited but by few. And when we say that the latter part of her life was characterized by a constant devotedness to the religion which she professed, *we do* say the Church and Sabbath school have sustained a loss which will long be felt. The circumstances connected with her death are these. She left her father's house to attend the wedding of a brother who resided but a short distance. No sooner had she arrived at her brother's than she was met by the angel of death. Alas! how soon are our anticipated joys turned to grief and our expectations blasted! Surrounded as she was by a circle of her friends who with herself had assembled to enjoy the festivals of a wedding, the same can better be imagined than described.—*Com.*

Salem Gazette, September 18, 1838.

MILITARY. The volunteer corps of the second brigade, second division, consisting of two companies of Cavalry, two of Artillery, and eight of Light Infantry and Riflemen, will meet for Inspection and Review, at Newburyport, today. The Salem Brass Band will accompany the Topsfield Light Infantry on the occasion.

Salem Gazette, September 25, 1838.

TOPSFIELD HOTEL.

AGRICULTURAL DINNER.

The subscriber will set a table for one hundred persons at half past one o'clock on Thursday next, when a first rate dinner will be provided at the rate of fifty cents a head.

Sept. 25.

JOHN HOLLAND.

Topsfield Hotel.

Salem Gazette, September 25, 1838.

ESSEX COUNTY CATTLE SHOW AND FAIR.

Notwithstanding the severity of the storm the Essex Agricultural Society had a very interesting exhibition at Topsfield yesterday. The ploughing match was well contested;—12 teams were entered. The animals in the pens, though less in number than when the weather has been more favorable, were many of them very handsome. More than 100 articles of Domestic Manufacture were exhibited, many of which were very beautiful, and speak well for the ingenuity and industry of the ladies, who have always contributed largely to the interest of such occasions. The manufactured articles generally were very creditable to the

competitors, and at a proper time the Committee will give the public a good account of them.

Nearly 50 specimens of fruits and vegetables were exhibited, some of which were rare and of great beauty. There were many choice vegetables and some of very great size, particularly squashes and beets. Salem contributed some fine apples and pears, and some other towns were well represented. The season has been favorable for fruits, and had the day been favorable the exhibition would have surpassed all former shows.

The dinner was provided by Mr. Munday of the Village Hotel in his best style, and a large company did ample justice to his generous fare. There were many choice fruits, such as pears, grapes, and melons upon the table.

The exercises in the meeting house were appropriate and interesting, and the Address by Rev. Mr. Withington was all that was expected from his established character for ingenuity and learning. The number present notwithstanding the unfavorable-ness of the weather and the spirit manifested, gave demonstration that this farmer's holiday has lost none of its interest, and that the Essex Agricultural Society is productive of great and permanent advantage to the community.

Salem Gazette, September 28, 1838.

UNPRECEDENTED SHOTS. Mr. William G. Lake, of Topsfield, shot five wild geese at two shots, on Wednesday. They were in a very excellent condition. Each weighed eight pounds and upwards.

Topsfield, Oct. 4, 1838.

Salem Gazette, October 5, 1838.

EDUCATION.

The County Convention of the friends of education will meet at Topsfield this Day, at 11 o'clock. Addresses are expected from Hon. Horace Mann, Secretary of the Board of Education, and one or more members of the Board, as well as from other distinguished individuals.

Salem Gazette, October 5, 1838.

A battalion of Light Infantry is expected to assemble at the East Parish meeting house in Boxford, on Thursday, 18th inst., consisting of the following companies:—Washington Guards, Boxford; Low's Volunteers, Ipswich [Linebrook Parish]; and the Topsfield Warren Blues. In the afternoon there will be a sham engagement between a company of Volunteer Indians and

the Light Infantry. The Topsfield Warren Blues will be accompanied by the Salem Brass Band.

Salem Gazette, October 12, 1838.

EDUCATION CONVENTION.

A County Convention of the friends of education was to have been held at Topsfield on the fifth inst., and the able and indefatigable Secretary of the Board of Education was present to address the assembly. Owing, however, *entirely*, as we hope, to the inadvertency which occurred somewhere, and by means of which scarcely any public notice was given of this meeting, it was very thinly attended; and we have seen no notice of its doings, if there were any.

The preceding paragraph was written for our last paper, but crowded out with many other things.—On Saturday last, the official record of the Convention was handed to us, as follows.

The Convention called by the Secretary of the Board of Education for the purpose of collecting information relative to the condition of the Common Schools in this County, assembled at Topsfield, on Friday, Oct. 5.

The Convention was called to order by the Rev. Mr. McEwen of Topsfield.

Mr. Jacob Batchelder, of Lynn, was called to the chair, and John Batchelder of Lynn was chosen Secretary.

The forenoon was occupied in an animated discussion of the methods usually adopted in teaching orthography and reading, which was ably sustained by several gentlemen from different parts of the County, among whom were Robert Rantoul, jr., Esq., of Gloucester, Rev. Mr. Putnam, of Danvers, Dr. Choate and Oliver Carlton, Esq., of Salem, David Choate, Esq., of Essex, Rev. Mr. Robbins and Mr. Jonathan Tuttle, of Lynn, and Rev. Mr. Thayer, of Beverly.

After a recess of one hour, the Convention reassembled at 2 o'clock, and at 2 1-2 o'clock listened to a lecture from the Hon. Horace Mann.

Following that, certain resolutions were adopted by the Convention.

JOHN BATCHELDER, Sec'y.

Topsfield, Oct. 5, 1838.

Salem Gazette, October 16, 1838.

ANNIVERSARY OF THE BOXFORD WASHINGTON GUARDS.

This beautiful company, under command of Capt. Wm. Low, celebrated its fourth anniversary on Thursday last. By invita-

tion from Capt. Low, a battalion of infantry, composed of the Washington Guards, the Warren Blues and Low's Volunteers, formed near the line between Topsfield and Boxford, whence they marched to the residence of Gen. SOLOMON Low, where they were cordially received by the general, his staff, Col. Perley, Maj. Clark, and other officers of the field. Here they partook of an elegant collation provided by the Gen. and were addressed by him.

About two in the afternoon, the companies and invited guests repaired to Washington Hall, where several hundred sat down to a sumptuous dinner furnished by the guards, and prepared by Mr. William Munday in the very best style. Soon after dinner, the battalion marched to the field, and encountered, in a sham engagement, two large companies dressed in Indian costume, commanded by Capts. Kimball and Peabody.

The day was closed in a manner worthy of its commencement. In the evening the Topsfield Warren Blues and others repaired to the public house kept by Capt. Wm. Munday, where they listened to the Salem Brass Band.

Salem Gazette, October 26, 1838.

TEACHERS' MEETING.

The ninth annual meeting of the Essex County Teachers' Association will be held at Topsfield on *Friday and Saturday*, Nov. 30th and Dec. 1st, at which time the following Lectures may be expected—viz :

On Friday, at 11 o'clock, from the Rev. Samuel M. Worcester of Salem—on the *English Language*. At half past 2, P. M., from Moses T. Parish of Salem—on *Our Profession*. At half past 3, from the Rev. N. Munroe of Bradford—on *Teaching the Courtesies of Life*. On Saturday, at 9 o'clock, from Jacob Batchelder of Lynn—on *The best method of Teaching Reading*. At 11 o'clock from Benjamin Greenleaf, Esq., of Bradford—on *The Geology of Essex County*.

Discussions will follow each lecture in due course. Important Reports may be expected at this meeting, from committees appointed to examine the various published systems of English Grammar, Arithmetic, Geography, and on Reading Books.

* * School committees, instructors, and friends to the cause of education, are respectfully invited to be present and contribute to the interest of the occasion.

GEORGE TITCOMB,

Newburyport, Nov. 23.

Corresponding Secretary.

Salem Gazette, November 23, 1838.

DIED. In Topsfield, on the 5th inst., Lucy Cleaveland, eldest daughter of the late Nehemiah Cleaveland, aged 38. During a protracted sickness of more than six years continuance, and of a most distressing and hopeless character, Miss Cleaveland manifested, in a remarkable degree, the patience and resignation of the Christian.

Salem Gazette, December 14, 1838.

The towns of Hamilton, Topsfield, Wenham, and Middleton, have petitioned the legislature to restore the fish way in Ipswich river, according to the act of 1788. It seems by subsequent acts that the Cotton Manufacturing Company, on said river, have raised their dam so high that alewives and shad cannot go over it, and have not been over it since 1827.

Salem Gazette, March 19, 1839.

TOPSFIELD ACADEMY.

The first Summer term of this Institution will commence on WEDNESDAY, April 10, and continue twelve weeks, under the superintendence of BENJAMIN GREENLEAF, Esq., late Preceptor of Bradford Academy.

The young ladies and gentlemen, who may be placed under his care, will receive instruction in all the various branches of an English and Classical Education.

He will be provided with such Assistants as the number of Students may require.

Tuition for English studies, \$5.00 per term.—For Classical studies, \$6.00 per term.

Board in good families can be obtained at \$2.00 per week.

Students can be furnished with Books and Stationery at the Institution.

Communications respecting the Academy may be addressed to Rev. Mr. McEwen, C. H. Holmes, Esq., and Mr. Richard Phillips, jr.

Topsfield, March 19, 1839.

Salem Gazette, March 22, 1839.

ESSEX COUNTY FISHERIES.

In the Senate, yesterday (Monday), the Committee on the Fisheries reported on the petition of Benjamin Woodbury, in behalf of the towns of Hamilton and Topsfield, Wenham and Middleton, in aid of the petition, proposing to refer it to the next Legislature.

The Report stated, that by the Act of 1781, these towns had and enjoyed a Right to take fish in Ipswich River, which was valuable to them; but by the subsequent Acts of 1826 and 1829 these rights were made valueless, no Shad or Alewives having passed up the River above Farley's Dam since 1826. The Ipswich Manufacturing Company remonstrated against the Petition, but the Committee were satisfied that there ought to be a good and sufficient passageway for the fish to pass up freely, and the Remonstrants admitted all this.

Upon the question of accepting the Report, Mr. KING of Essex moved to recommit with instructions to report a Bill to provide a sufficient passageway.

This proposition was discussed by Messrs. *King*, *Spofford*, and *Whitmarsh*, in favor of it, and Mr. *Meigs* against it; the Chairman of the Committee, Mr. *Marston*, also making a statement of what the Company were willing to do.

But the motion of Mr. *King* to recommit prevailed without a division, and a Bill is to be reported tomorrow.

Salem Gazette, April 2, 1839.

ESSEX COUNTY TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION.

The semi-annual meeting of the E. C. T. A. will be held at Topsfield on Friday and Saturday, the 24th and 25th inst., in the Hall of the Academy.

The following lectures may be expected, viz: Friday, A. M., 10 1-2 o'clock, by Rev. Mr. True, of Lynn, on the history and utility of Logic. P. M., 1 1-2 o'clock, by Dr. Durkee of Lynn, on Physical education. 3 o'clock, by the President of the Association, on the Geology of Essex County. Saturday, 9 1-2 A. M., by J. W. Browne, Esq., of Lynn, on the Cultivation of the taste and imagination. 11 o'clock, by Mr. Towndrow of Salem, on Penmanship. Discussions will follow each lecture.

Teachers, members of School Committees, and all friends of Education, are invited to attend.

M. P. PARISH, Cor. Sec'y.

Salem, May 17, 1839.

Salem Gazette, May 17, 1839.

TOPSFIELD ACADEMY.—The second Summer term of this institution will commence on Wednesday, July 24, and continue twelve weeks under the care of BENJAMIN GREENLEAF, Esq. Young Ladies and Gentlemen will be instructed in all the various branches of an English and classical education, including pure and mixed Mathematics. Particular attention will be de-

voted to those students who are preparing to be Teachers, and for the computing room. A short course of familiar lectures on Chemistry, Botany, etc., will be given, for which there will be no extra charge to the students. Mr. Greenleaf will be assisted by competent teachers. Tuition, \$5 per term. Board in good families may be obtained at \$2 per week. There will be a short vacation of two days and a half, at the time of the meeting of the American Institute. For further information, reference may be had to Rev. James T. McEwen, Charles H. Holmes, Esq., or Joseph C. Batchelder, M. D.

RICHARD PHILLIPS, Secretary.

Topsfield, July 5, 1839

Salem Gazette, July 12, 1839.

TO THE COURT OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS FOR THE
COUNTY OF ESSEX.

THE undersigned respectfully represent, that the County road leading from Salem through Topsfield to Georgetown, has ever been a subject of much complaint, on account of the difficulty of passing the river hill, so called, in Topsfield. This hill, on account of its steepness and great height, presents a serious obstacle in travelling this road, and it being very broad on the top, it is impossible to reduce it or improve it much where the road now is; and as this is one of the greatest travelled roads in the County, the public is much interested in having an improvement, by which the peculiar difficulty of passing this hill may be avoided. In the opinion of the undersigned such an improvement may be had, by making a new piece of road through a valley that runs through said hill some distance to the eastward of the present road.

It has been found by actual survey and computation, that the highest point of elevation over which a road would have to pass through this valley would be fifty feet lower than the hill where the road now passes it; and the rise is so gradual that the steepest place need not be more than half a degree more than half as steep as the Turnpike hill and probably not half as steep as the hill on the County road; and the course is so much more direct that a saving of about forty rods will be made in the distance of travel.

We are therefore of the opinion that the public necessity and convenience requires that a road should be located through this valley to be connected at each end with the present road:—

We therefore respectfully petition this court to adopt meas-

ures to cause a new piece of road to be located and made, commencing by the Newburyport Turnpike opposite to where the road recently made through land of Dr. Treadwell, meets the same ; thence running about twenty-five degrees east of south to a point a little east of John Dwinnel's barn, thence south about twelve degrees west to the new piece of road north of Elias Putnam's house ; or in such other course as may be found most judicious—and as in duty bound will ever pray.

JOHN KIMBALL and others.

The County Commissioners appointed a hearing at the Topsfield Hotel for Sept. 4th, at 9 A. M.

Salem Gazette, July 23, 1839.

COPPER MINE.

There has been opened, within a few weeks, a Copper Mine in the neighboring town of Topsfield, in this county. It is in the southwest side of the town, near the Danvers and Middleton lines. It promises thus far, we understand, to yield a good quantity and quality of this metal.

This mine is not a recent discovery, but the revival of an old one. The history of it is substantially thus : Some seventy years back, there was living in the town of Topsfield, or its near vicinity, an Englishman by the name of *Bunting*. He was of a scientific turn,—solitary and meditative in his habits, and spent much of his time in wandering about in the then extensive woods of that region. In one of his rambles, in passing over the location of the mine in question, he conceived that he saw evidence of the presence of copper ore. This led him to farther investigation. An excavation was made, and some ore obtained, which upon the process of smelting was found to yield copper. He made known his discovery to the owner of the land, and entered into an agreement with him for the working of the mine upon the condition that Bunting should do it at his own cost, and give the proprietor of the field one sixteenth part of the copper obtained. Accordingly a pit was opened to a considerable depth, which not yielding very abundantly, was abandoned, and a second tried, which produced more freely. A large quantity of the ore was thus dug—enough to lade one vessel of considerable size, and shipped for England, from this very port,—we believe,—there to be smelted. Bunting arrived in England with his ore,—but was taken sick, and died very shortly after his arrival. What was done with the ore, or how it remunerated the expense of so long transportation, does not appear. The

project seems to have died there with the projector. Bunting not returning to this country, and no tidings being heard of him, it was very naturally supposed to have resulted in a total failure. Accordingly, the mine was neglected, bushes sprang up on the spot, and it was soon forgotten. It has always gone by the name of the "Mine Lot,"—and has frequently changed owners.

The history of the affair was in the process of years forgotten, or lay dormant in the memory of a few individuals. There was a sort of misty tradition handed down concerning the "Mine Lot," which was, that a strange foreigner once undertook to dig gold or money there; and that he suddenly disappeared, and, as supposed, was swallowed up in the earth. This was believed by a few timid and superstitious of a later generation; and some had a dread of going through the "Mine Lot" by night, as it had been reported that an unearthly, grim-looking figure had been seen walking guard there armed with a huge branch of an old oak tree which had been scattered by lightning in the vicinity. Few, however, believed this story.

Within a very few years past, a descendant of Bunting, in England, inherited some property of his,—and among other things, some of his papers came into his hands. Among them he discovered the very agreement relating to the working of the Copper Mine,—describing it as situated in "the Colony of Massachusetts, North America, etc." The young man not knowing but that an immense fortune was here buried in the earth for him, undertook with his papers, a voyage to the U. States. He visited the Office of the Registry of Deeds in this city, to ascertain by ancient records the location and identity of the mine which was the object of his search. Upon inquiry concerning the matter being made in Topsfield a recollection of the old affair and person was awakened in the memory of an aged individual there. Suffice it to say, that traces of the two pits were discovered, almost obliterated by time. Whether the agreement was not still binding, or whether the young Englishman did not consider the object worth farther pursuit,—or whether he sold his right and title, we do not know. He shortly after left the country. Some enterprising individuals of late have purchased the "lot," and the digging of the ore is now going on with flattering prospects.—*Observer.*

Salem Gazette, August 9, 1839.

The Whigs of Topsfield held a meeting last Saturday evening, and chose Col. Nath'l Perley and William E. Kimball, Esq. as delegates to attend the Convention at Worcester on the 11th inst.

Salem Gazette, September 10, 1839.

DIED. In Topsfield, very suddenly, MR. BARTHOLOMEW CONANT, aged 66. He always sustained the character of an honest and upright man; was a good citizen, and much respected by all with whom he was acquainted. Although called suddenly to bid farewell to earthly scenes, yet, we trust, he was ready to depart. For several years he has been a professed Christian, and an ornament to the church of which he was a member. Kindness and meekness were in all his doings.

Salem Gazette, September 24, 1839.

ESSEX ss. To the Honorable Court of County Commissioners, begun and holden at Newburyport within and for said county on the second Tuesday in October, A. D. 1839.

The undersigned inhabitants of said County, respectfully represent that the high-way leading from Topsfield to Danvers and Salem, over Wenham causey, so called, is in parts thereof hilly, and in parts thereof greatly circuitous; and that the public convenience and necessity require that a more easy, level and direct communication should be opened between said towns to Topsfield, Danvers and Salem, for the accommodation of the public travel in that direction.

Wherefore they pray that after due proceedings had in the premises, that said highway beginning at the point where it intersects the road leading by the dwelling house of Benj. C. and David Perkins in Topsfield, and terminating at a point in the highway in Wenham leading by the dwelling house of Warren Peabody, where the road recently laid out and established on the petition of John Porter and others meets said last named highway, may be made more level in the hilly parts and more direct in the circuitous parts thereof, by such alterations, reductions, repairs and new locations between the termini aforesaid, as in the judgment of your Honor the public good requires, and as in duty bound your petitioners will ever pray.

JACOB P. TOWNE and others.

The County Commissioners appointed a hearing at the Topsfield Hotel for Dec. 3rd, 1839, at 10 A. M.

Salem Gazette, October, 22, 1839.

NOTICE.

The annual meeting of the *Essex Teacher's Association* will be held at Topsfield Academy on Friday and Saturday, the 29th and 30th inst.

The following lectures may be expected, viz :

On Friday forenoon, at half past 10 o'clock, by Rev. Mr. Truce of Lynn, upon the Nature and Utility of Logic.

At half past 10 o'clock P. M. by Mr. Allen of Haverhill Academy, upon English Grammar and Composition.

At 3 o'clock by Mr. Weed, of Ipswich, upon Agriculture as a part of Common School Education.

On Saturday, A. M. at 9 o'clock, a lecture by R. Rantoul, Jr. various subjects pertaining and the subject of education will be brought up for discussion by the Association.

M. P. PARISH, Cor. Sec'y.

Salem, Nov. 26th, 1839.

Salem Gazette, November 26, 1839.

TOPSFIELD ACADEMY.

MR. EDITOR,—By the last quarterly catalogue of this Institution, it appears that the whole number of students the last term is eighty one. The winter term has lately commenced under the care of Asa Farwell, Esq., a gentleman of high literary attainments, and an able and experienced Instructor; and well qualified to teach in *all* the various branches of an English and Classical education. Board in good families can be had for \$2 per week, washing included. The present term will continue 18 weeks. Tuition at the rate of \$5 for 12 weeks; an extra price is required of those scholars who attend to Civil Engineering, and the French and German languages. The trustees have made arrangements to have a course of lectures this term on Astronomy, Chemistry, Physiology, etc. illustrated by diagrams, preparations and models. These are to be given without additional expense to all the members of the institution. It is believed these lectures will be an important improvement in illustrating the various subjects to which the minds of the students may be directed. The location of this institution is uncommonly pleasant—both in respect to its beautiful scenery and good influence. The opening of the Winter term of this Academy, under the existing favorable circumstances, offers a rare opportunity to those who wish to place their sons and daughters in a situation favorable to the cultivation of good habits, in respect to economy, industry and thorough scholarship.

T. F. R.

Salem Gazette, December 20, 1839

☞ The Rev. JOHN PIERPONT, of Boston, will deliver a Lecture before the Topsfield Atheneum Association, in Rev. Mr. McEwen's Meeting House, on TUESDAY, EVENING, Jan. 21, at half past 6 o'clock.—Subject—His travels in Ephesus. Admittance free :

Tops. A. Association.
Salem Gazette, January 17, 1840.

MR. EDITOR.—Will you be so obliging as to give room to a few words concerning the concert of the SALEM BRASS BAND, at Topsfield, on Wednesday, the 5th inst. I speak of the spirit of liberality manifested towards this association, by the young men in the vicinity of Topsfield. Sleigh load after sleigh load drove up, put their equipages in the shed and then came up to the outside of the meeting house, to hear and see. Most of the lower windows being filled with the faces of liberal minded souls looking in. There were about one hundred inside of the house, the entry was crowded, and all of three hundred outside supposed to be from some Navy Yard about there. The price of tickets was 25 cents ; one liberal minded worthy suggested the propriety of putting them at 12 1-2 cts. *Children, half price, 6 1-4 ct !* “No you don't”.

“The outside passengers” must be greatly obliged to the proprietors of the House for the use of the shed to put up in, while they were attending the Concert on the outside of the House. A communication in the Observer of Saturday the 8th says “we hope and trust the thinness of the house will be excused by the Band, when they consider the shortness of the notice and the coldness of the weather.” I have no doubt the Band will excuse it, also the *thinness* of those “outside passengers” who it is to be hoped will excuse the coldness of the weather.

M. H.

Salem, Feb. 14, 1840.

Salem Gazette, February 14, 1840.

“TOPSFIELD GOOD YET ! The democrats carried their whole ticket for town officers in Topsfield.”

Salem Advertiser, of Wednesday.

This is equally untrue with the Wenham and Danvers stores. That is, — there is not a word of truth in it. The Whigs in Topsfield are stronger than they ever were before. Young men who have never before taken part in politics are daily coming out in favor of Harrison, Reform and Free Labor ; and their

example is followed by men who have heretofore avoided committing themselves in favor of any party; and better still, by some, as we are informed, who always opposed Webster and Clay, but who are strong for Harrison.

The Whig Moderator, Mr. Conant, was elected by more than fifty majority. With regard to the town officers, the Whigs were, as usual, liberal, and reelected Mr. Towne for Clerk, who is a very suitable and respectable man for the office, having no other failing than suffering himself to be accounted a Van Buren man. Four out of the five Selectmen are Whigs, all the Assessors are Whigs, and most of the other officers are Whigs.

The Advertiser is very unfortunate in relying upon the false information given to it by its friends.

Salem Gazette, March 13, 1840.

TOPSFIELD ACADEMY.

The Spring Term of this Institution will commence, Wednesday, April 13th, and continue to the close of the Academic year in August.

The school will be under the immediate care of the present principal, Mr. Asa Farwell, A. B. whose qualifications and success as an instructor in the various branches of an English and Classical Education, are regarded by the friends of the Institution as a sure pledge of its future prosperity.

The location of this academy is uncommonly favorable; being in a pleasant and quiet village in the centre of Essex County, it affords peculiar advantages to those desirous of pursuing their studies, removed from noise and interruption; and is in respect to scenery, health and freedom from bad influences, one of the most eligible in New England.

The course of instruction is designed to be thorough; and no pains will be spared in rendering efficient aid to all connected with the school, in the various branches to which they attend. The Principal will be assisted by competent instructors, and will devote particular attention to those Young Ladies and Gentlemen who are preparing to become teachers. Among other advantages, the pupils of the institution have the privilege of attending the Lectures delivered before the Athenaeum Association, by gentlemen from different towns and cities in the vicinity.

It is particularly desirable that scholars should be present at the commencement of the term. Tuition for the English branches, \$5 per quarter. Tuition for the Language, \$6. Board

including washing and lights may be obtained in good families, near the Academy, for \$2 per week.

References—Rev. Mr. Coggin, Boxford—Rev. Mr. Mansfield, Wenham—Rev. Mr. Braman and Rev. Mr. Burden, Georgetown—Wm. H. Foster, Esq. and Asahel Hunginton, Esq., Salem—Rev. M. P. Braman, Danvers—Ferdinand Andrews, Esq. and Gilbert Brownell, Esq. Boston.

I. C. BATCHELDER, Secretary.

Topsfield, March 20.

Salem Gazette, April 3, 1840.

The Tenth semi-annual meeting of the ESSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION, will be held at the Academy in Topsfield, on Friday and Saturday, the 22d and 23d inst.

The following gentlemen are expected to lecture, viz.

On Friday at 10 o'clock, A. M., Mr. C. H. Allen of Haverhill Academy, upon English Grammar and Composition.

At half past 1 o'clock P. M. Mr. T. D. P. Stone, of the Female Seminary, Andover, on Reading.

At 3 o'clock P. M., Rev. L. Coleman, of the Andover Teacher's Seminary.

On Saturday, at 9 o'clock, a lecture by Hon. J. Spofford of Bradford.

At half past 10 o'clock A. M. Rev. A. Tram, of Haverhill, will lecture.

Various subjects of interest to those engaged in the education of youth, will be discussed by members of the Association.

CHARLES NORTHEND, Sec'y.

Danvers, May 19.

Salem Gazette, May 19, 1840.

INDEPENDENCE.

The Whig celebration, in this city, was, in every respect, all that could be desired. [A three column account follows]. The Manchester Light Infantry, the Topsfield Warren Blues, and the Boxford Washington Guards, are all beautiful companies and added greatly to the splendor of the escort. * * * To show the spirit by which the escort were animated we need only mention that the two companies from Boxford and Topsfield were already formed on Danvers neck by five o'clock in the morning.

Salem Gazette, July 7, 1840.

The Topsfield Warren Blues tender their thanks to the Salem Mechanic Light Infantry, and to the Whig citizens generally, for their kind and hospitable attentions, on the fourth of July.

Salem Gazette, July 10, 1840.

MARRIAGES.

In Topsfield, Mr. ISRAEL WILDES to Miss LYDIA ANN AVERILL. Mr. MOSES WILDES to Miss SARAH ANN ADAMS. Mr. ASA BRADSTREET to Miss NANCY FULLERTON. Col. NATHANIEL PERLEY to Miss ELIZABETH WAITT. Mr. WILLIAM R. ADAMS to Miss REBECCA J. HART. Mr. FRANCIS GOULD to Miss CATHARINE B. GOULD. Mr. FREDERIC STILES to Miss SOPHIA PERKINS—all of Topsfield.

Salem Gazette, July 10, 1840.

TOPSFIELD ACADEMY.

The annual Catalogue of this Institution has just been issued. The whole number of young gentlemen and ladies, was 104. During the fall term Benjamin Greenleaf, Esq. was the principal; during the winter and summer terms it has been under the superintendence of Asa Farwell, Esq., a gentleman of high literary attainments, and well qualified to teach in all the various branches of an English and classical education. The Academy building is situated on an eminence in a beautiful village distinguished for the salubrity of its climate, the neatness of its dwellings, the beauty of its hills and valleys, and the purity of its atmosphere. The building is a large and airy edifice, two stories high, and well adapted to the purpose for which it was erected. The lower story contains the usual study room, and an apartment for the library and philosophical apparatus; the upper story has a large hall and several recitation rooms. The beautiful location of the Academy, the mode of instruction which is designed to be such as to secure a thorough acquaintance with branches pursued, afford peculiar advantages to those who are desirous of pursuing their studies removed from noise and interruption; and to those parents who wish to place their children where they will avoid temptations to which many schools are exposed. The annual examination of this institution occurred on Tuesday the 11th. inst. We were especially pleased with the recitations of a class of young girls in Latin and Mathematics; the girls in this class were only 8 years of age. The improvement realized by this class showed that the teacher had spared no effort in endeavoring to secure to them

such both intellectual and moral, as that tender age required. We were also well pleased with the recitations of the other students in Latin and Greek, in Political Economy, and in the higher branches of Mathematics. The compositions of the young ladies for maturity of thoughts beauty of imagination, and devotional feeling, exceeded our anticipations. The performances of the young gentlemen were highly creditable to themselves, and were considered as promises of usefulness by their friends. The valedictory address by Mr. Kilham of Boxford, was an able effort, and was listened to by all present with heartfelt delight. The whole exercises were interspersed with instrumental and vocal music ably performed under the direction of Mr. Allison H. Palmer, who is connected with the school, and by whom instruction in vocal and instrumental music is given. The pupils board in private families near the Academy at a moderate price, where every attention is paid to their health and happiness. The next term will commence on the first Wednesday of September and continue 11 weeks.

The public exercises were closed by an appropriate prayer by Rev. Mr. Mansfield of Wenham.

VERITAS.

August 13, 1840.

Salem Gazette, August 21, 1840.

MILITARY.

A meeting of the Field Officers of the Fourth Brigade, (Essex County) is to be held at Topsfield, on the 4th of September next, for the choice of a Brigadier General, under the new organization of the volunteer Militia.

Salem Gazette, August 28, 1840.

MILITARY.

On Friday last, Col. Nathaniel Perley, of Topsfield, of the 7th regiment, was elected Brigadier General of the 4th Brigade 2d division Volunteer Militia comprising Essex County.

Salem Gazette, September 8, 1840.

[At the great Whig gathering at Bunker Hill on Sept. 10th the Topsfield delegation carried a banner described as follows:] Device.—Sub-Treasury, with head, legs, and tail of a cow; with Amos' children (office holders) frightened from the teats by the sound of Whig cannon. In the distance the Whig flag of victory is seen waving amidst clouds of smoke from the Artillery.

Motto.—“Amos’ children (office holders) frightened from their pap.” On the reverse, “Retrenchment and Punishment.” “No duty and full pay for the Commodore.—100 lashes for the Sailor.”

Salem Gazette, September 11, 1840.

MILITARY.

The 7th Regiment of Light Infantry, commanded by Col. Horace S. Bradley, together with the other troops in the north part of the Fourth Brigade, will parade at Topsfield, on the 8th of October, and be reviewed by Brig. Gen. Perley.

The 4th Brigade staff is organized by the appointment of Nathaniel Conant, of Topsfield, as Brigade Major and Inspector; George T. Clark, of Andover, Brigade Quarter Master, Daniel Richards of Danvers, Aid de Camp.

Salem Gazette, Sept. 25, 1840.

ESSEX COUNTY TEACHERS’ ASSOCIATION.

The eleventh Annual Meeting of this Association will be held at the Academy building in Topsfield, on Friday and Saturday, the 16th and 17th days of October. Lectures on subjects intimately connected with school instruction will be delivered by the Rev. Mr. Train, of Haverhill,—by the Hon. David Choate, of Essex,—by Mr. Wells, of the Teachers’ Seminary in Andover,—by the Rev. Alonzo Gray, of Andover,—and by Benjamin Greenleaf, Esq. Principal of Bradford Academy. At a recent meeting of the officers of the above Association, the following resolve was passed:

Resolved, That the School Committees of the several towns in the County be respectfully requested to urge upon the teachers of their Schools the importance of attending the meetings of the Association and allow them the requisite time for doing the same.

Salem Gazette, October 13, 1840.

TOPSFIELD.

There will be a Political Address delivered before the Whigs of Topsfield, on THURSDAY EVENING by J. C. PERKINS Esq. of Salem.

Salem Gazette, October 27, 1840.

TOPSFIELD.

A political Address will be delivered on THURSDAY EVENING next, by JONATHAN C. PERKINS, Esq., of Salem, at Rev.

Mr. McEwen's Meeting house, at 6 1-2 o'clock. Citizens generally are invited to attend.

Salem Gazette, November 3, 1840.

In the Nov. 13, 1840, issue of the Salem Gazette, is printed a list of the officers of the Essex County Teacher's Association, among whom were Joseph C. Batchelder, Topsfield, *Librarian and Cabinet Keeper*, and Asa Farwell, Topsfield, *Councillor*.

TOPSFIELD ACADEMY. The winter term in this institution, will commence on the first Wednesday of December. Instruction will be given as heretofore, to pupils of both sexes in the different branches of study comprized in a complete English and Classical education.

References to Gen. Nathaniel Perley, William Munday, Esq., and Rev. Jas. McEwen.

Topsfield, Nov. 13.

Salem Gazette, November 20, 1840.

[In the return of votes for President, in the County of Essex, 108 were cast for the abolition candidate of which 19 were in Topsfield.]

Salem Gazette, November 20, 1840.

TOPSFIELD, NOV. 21, 1840.

Mr. Editor—Dear Sir—I saw it stated in your paper of yesterday, that nineteen votes were cast in this town for the Abolition Ticket. This is a mistake, and I hope you will correct it, that the impression may not go abroad that we have nineteen voters in this town who are so infatuated as to go hand in hand with that political party. There was but one *amalgamation* ticket cast in this town.

A. B.

Salem Gazette, November 26, 1840.

HUMANITY.

A *gentleman* with a pung and two horses, from Topsfield, was driving down Essex St. last Saturday afternoon, and ran on a lady, rising eighty years of age and quite deaf, knocked her down, broke her collarbone, and otherwise injured her. People passing immediately ran to her rescue and drew her from under the horses' feet. The said gentleman did not get out of his sleigh, but merely as a matter of favor stopped his horses long enough for the old lady to be drawn from under them. Should

this meet the eye of this pink of humanity, he is informed that unless he should in the course of this week call upon the injured person, who is very poor, and make her condition as comfortable as circumstances will permit, he may expect to be called on in a more formal way. Should the person who committed this outrage say in excuse that he does not know where the injured person lives, all he has to do is to inquire in the neighborhood where the act was committed, and in case his memory does not serve him to know the place, he can call on the printer, who will give him the necessary information, also the name of the writer of this piece, if required. M.

Salem Gazette, December 22, 1840.

TOPSFIELD ACADEMY. This School is now open for the reception of young Ladies and Gentlemen, W. F. KENT, Principal. Instruction will be given in all the branches of an English and Classical Education.

References—Gen. N. Perley, Rev. Messrs. McEwen, and Griffin, Topsfield; Rev. Mr. Coggin, of Boxford; Rev. Mr. Mansfield, Wenham; Rev. Mr. Braman, Georgetown; Col. Jesse Putnam and J. W. Proctor, Esq., Danvers; A. Huntington, Esq. and Col. H. Whipple, Salem; S. B. Ives and G. Brownell, Esq. of Boston.

Dec. 15, 1840.

Salem Gazette, December 25, 1840.

RICHARD PHILLIPS, Jr., of Topsfield, has been appointed by the Governor and Council, one of the Coroners for the county of Essex.

Salem Gazette, Mar. 19, 1841.

NEW ARRANGEMENT.

HAVERHILL AND CONCORD STAGE

[Woodcut of stage coach]

The Haverhill and Concord Stage, on and after this day, will leave Salem, Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays at 8 o'clock A. M., or soon after the arrival of the cars from Boston and Marblehead.

This stage intersects with the line for Derry and Manchester, N. H. at Haverhill.

Seats taken in Salem at the Essex House.

J. PINKHAM.

Salem Gazette, Apr. 8, 1841.

ESSEX COUNTY TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION.

☞ The Eleventh Semi-annual Meeting of the "Essex County Teachers' Association," will be held at Topsfield Academy, on Friday, the 30th inst. and the day following.

On Friday, lectures may be expected from Rev. C. C. SEWALL of Danvers; Rev. E. A. LAWRENCE of Haverhill; Mr. T. D. P. STONE of Andover Female Seminary, and Rev. G. B. Perry of Bradford.

On Saturday, from Rev. A. FITZ of Ipswich, and THOMAS B. WEST, Esq. of Beverly Academy.

The first Lecture will be at 10 o'clock, Friday, A. M.

Teachers and the friends of Education generally, are respectfully invited to attend.

CHARLES NORTHEND, Sec.

Danvers, April 27, 1841.

Salem Gazette, Apr. 27, 1841.

☞ WILLIAM E. KIMBALL, Esq. has been appointed postmaster of Topsfield, in place of EDWARD HOOD, Esq.

Salem Gazette, May 4, 1841.

[Sylvester Cummings, guardian of Samuel Hood, jr. (a person non compos mentis) of Topsfield, married, petitioned the Probate Court for authority to sell certain real estate located in Topsfield and Middleton.]

Salem Gazette, May 4, 1841.

FOR THE SALEM GAZETTE.

At a meeting of the Essex County Teachers' Association, held in Topsfield last week, immediately after the first lecture, by Mr. Stone, of Andover, the following vote was passed, moved by Mr. Putnam of Salem, and seconded by Mr. Stone, of Andover.

Voted, "That the association immediately adjourn to a private room in the Hotel, for the purpose of free discussion among ourselves, and that all those who consider themselves members, and *ladies* that are teachers, be invited to be present."

The policy of such a vote may justly be questioned. In the public notice of the meeting of the association,

"Teachers and the friends of Education *generally* are respectfully invited to attend."

Similar invitations have been uniformly given in previous notices of meetings, and the people of Topsfield and neighborhood have improved the opportunity of listening to the lectures and discussions which have been had.

I, for one, have been entertained and instructed, and attended this time under this general invitation, and it was matter of regret to be thus unexpectedly deprived of the privilege of hearing the discussions, which are thought by many to be as interesting as the lectures. They lay open and explain the subject of the lecture more fully, and elicit additional remarks from the lecturer.

The audience have generally heretofore been invited to take a part in these discussions, and I have now and then myself thrown in a remark. I have always had great respect for the association, have aided and assisted, in various ways, in promoting the objects of the association. I think these meetings of teachers very profitable to themselves and the public, and should much regret that anything should be done, which would go to lessen their usefulness or popularity.

Again, the idea of adjourning to a private room, and inviting female teachers, might not suit the tastes of all classes, and in such a hasty vote I presume the association has not maturely considered the bearing of such a movement. I presume they did not have many ladies attend their discussions in private apartments.

The only reason I heard given, was that they did not want all their "little peccadillos made public." But it is no matter how many faults are made known, if they are willing to correct them; besides, their perfections, which we are willing to much more abound, would be as much kept from the public as their imperfections.

Considering myself a friend of education, and to the association, I have been induced to make these remarks for the consideration of all concerned.

Topsfield, May 6, 1841.

Salem Gazette, May 14, 1841.

NOTICE.

MR. JOHNSON, of Boston, a reformed inebriate, will lecture on Temperance, in the Methodist meeting house, in Topsfield, TOMORROW EVENING, at 7 1-2 o'clock. He will also lecture in the Old Meeting House, on Sabbath evening. He will relate the experiences of 18 years of extreme drunkenness, and the sufferings of himself and his family, during that period.

Topsfield, May 14.

Salem Gazette, May 14, 1841.

TOPSFIELD HOTEL.

FOR SALE OR TO BE LET. For sale or to be let that spacious House, situated on the Newburyport Turnpike, known as the Topsfield Hotel. It is situated on the main road from Boston, 21 miles; from Salem 9 miles; from Haverhill, 12 1-2, and from Newburyport 12 miles.

The House is elevated, and is one of the pleasantest situations for a summer residence that can be found, being very airy. The House is three stories high, has a fine hall, and was built expressly for a Public House. Adjoining is a large Stable, sufficient to accomodate 50 or 60 horses over night—together with large Wood Sheds and other out buildings. There are about three acres of first rate Land, on which is about 100 grafted Fruit Trees of selected fruit. One of the finest wells of water, together with an aqueduct that never fails of water.

Any person desirous of a Public House, will find the above one of the finest in the country.

For further information apply to SOLOMON WILDES or MOSES WILDES, No. 11 Elm street, Boston.

N. B. The above Hotel is well calculated for Boarders, and in the summer months has been filled with the same. Possession will be given immediately, as the House is now vacated.

Topsfield, June 1, 1841.

Salem Gazette, June 1, 1841.

TOPSFIELD.

There is to be a celebration on Monday in Topsfield, upon temperance principles. A procession will be formed, and an address delivered by MR. KENT, Preceptor of the Academy, after which the company will partake of a dinner.

Salem Gazette, July 2, 1841.

Wednesday afternoon. It had been preceded by intense heat on that day and Tuesday. About 2 o'clock, there were indications of the gradual approach of a thunder shower; but the tempest, which burst upon us, soon after three o'clock, proceeded from a lower stratum of clouds, which travelled with a degree of swiftness rarely witnessed. Volumes of dust, leaves, branches, and every other light article exposed to its power, instantly filled the air. Many large trees were broken off, others were torn up by the roots, and numerous barns, and other buildings presenting a large surface and of light frames, were overthrown. The first blast was almost instantly followed by torrents of rain, with heavy thunder.

In Topsfield there was a perfect tornado, a sort of young typhoon. In the south part of the town several barns were blown down. One, belonging to a Mr. Gifford, was demolished while he and his two sons were in it. Mr. G. was severely hurt, and one of the sons was injured by a blow upon his head from a falling timber. Some of the hail stones which fell in Topsfield in the afternoon measured, we are informed, six and a half inches in circumference. Much of the glass in the west and southwest parts of the houses upon and near the Hill was broken. In the Valley the damage to the glass was slight, as the wind has subsided in that quarter before the hail fell. They had another thunder shower in the evening, when hail stones fell, some of which measured four and a half inches in circumference.

A large number of fruit trees were blown down, and many fields of corn and potatoes were seriously injured by the hail in the several places over which the storm passed. On the road from Topsfield to Danvers Plains, trees were prostrated in great numbers. A sound oak, a foot in diameter, was literally twisted off a short distance from the ground, and the bark peeled almost entirely from the trunk.

Salem Gazette, July 2, 1841.

INDEPENDENCE IN TOPSFIELD. The anniversary of independence was celebrated at Topsfield in a very agreeable manner. A procession of gentlemen was formed near the Academy, and moved under the direction of Joel Lake, Esq., chief marshal, to the meetinghouse, where they were joined by the ladies and children, and thence proceeded to a grove near the village. An eloquent oration was delivered by William F. Kent, Esq., and after the oration the company partook of an excellent repast, prepared by the ladies of Topsfield. Maj. Nathaniel Conant was president of the day, assisted, at the table, by C. A. Holmes, and John Wright, Esqs. In the afternoon, the children of the *Cold Water Army* were addressed by Rev. J. Humphrey Avery, of Danvers.

Salem Gazette, July 13, 1841.

TOPSFIELD ACADEMY.

The fall term of this institution will commence WEDNESDAY, Aug. 18th. The School will be under the care of the former Principal, Mr. ASA FARWELL, A. B., in whose qualifications and success as an instructor of youth, the friends of the Institution have the fullest confidence.

Particular attention will be devoted to those who are preparing to become Teachers ; and no efforts will be spared on the part of the Principal in endeavoring to give perfect satisfaction to all who may patronize the School.

Tuition in the English Branches, \$5, per quarter,
 “ “ Languages, \$6, do.

Board in respectable families near the Academy may be had on reasonable terms.

B. P. ADAMS,

Topsfield, July 30.

Secretary.

Salem Gazette, Aug. 3, 1841.

MILITARY.

A grand military exhibition is expected in this city to-day, when 20 companies, being all the independent corps in the county, excepting the Cadets, will be assembled on the common, under command of Brig. Gen. Sutton.

The Topsfield, Boxford and Bradford companies marched into town yesterday afternoon, and pitched their tents on the common. They were accompanied by the Methuen and Haverhill Bands.

Salem Gazette, Sept. 17, 1841.

MILITARY.

The Parade of Gen. Sutton's Brigade took place on Friday last, on Salem Common.

* * * *

The Topsfield, Boxford and Bradford companies remained in their encampments during Friday night, and left for home on Saturday. The Topsfield and Boxford companies visited the Museum on Saturday morning. The Boxford Guards paraded in a very neat and comfortable undress uniform, on Friday evening, and attracted much notice by their unique appearance.

Salem Gazette, Sept. 21, 1841.

At a meeting of the Topsfield Warren Blues held at their Armory, Sept. 18th, the following votes were passed :—

Voted, That the thanks of this corps be tendered to the Salem Light Infantry for the generous invitation extended to us of visiting the East India Marine Museum.

Voted, That the thanks of this Company be presented to the Salem Mechanic Light Infantry, for their generosity in proffering to us the use of their Armory, on the evening of the 17th inst., and also for refreshments on the same occasion.

A. S. PEABODY,
Clerk.

Topsfield, Sept. 21, 1841.

Salem Gazette, Sept. 21, 1841.

A CARD.

ARMORY OF THE BOXFORD WASHINGTON }
GUARDS, Saturday Evening, Sept. 18. }

Voted, That the thanks of the Company be presented to the Officers of the Topsfield Warren Blues for refreshments received of them on our late campaign, at the Village Hotel, in Topsfield, on Thursday and Saturday, Sept. 16th and 18th.

JAMES NEASON,
Clerk of the B. W. G.

Boxford, Sept. 21, 1841.

Salem Gazette, Sept. 21, 1841.

TEACHER'S ASSOCIATION.

The twelfth annual meeting of the Essex County Teachers association will be held at the Academy in Topsfield on Friday and Saturday 15th and 16th inst.

The exercises will commence on Friday, at 10 o'clock A. M., with a lecture by Rev. G. B. Perry of Bradford.

On Saturday, A. M., Cornelius Walker, Esq., and Hon. Horace Mann, of Boston, will lecture before the Association.

Arrangements have been made by which the annual meeting of the "Common School Convention" for Essex County will be held at the same place on Friday. This meeting will be organized at 11 1-2 o'clock, A. M., under the direction of the Secretary of the Board of Education, who will deliver an address at 2 o'clock P. M. The remainder of the afternoon and evening will be occupied by the discussion of subjects of interest to the friends of popular education.

CHARLES NORTHEND, Sec'y of Co. Asso.

Salem, Oct. 5, 1841.

Salem Gazette, Oct. 5, 1841.

☞ The Essex County Education Convention is held at Topsfield this forenoon. We trust it will escape the imputation, which it has deserved at some former times, of being the least well attended of all the series of County Conventions in this State.

Salem Gazette, Oct. 15, 1841.

TEACHERS' MEETING.

The annual meeting of the "Essex County Teachers' Association" was held at Topsfield on Friday and Saturday of last week, and on the former day the annual "Common School Convention" for the County, was held. These meetings were well attended, and the exercises were highly interesting, appropriate and instructive.

On Friday, A. M., Rev. Mr. Perry, of Bradford, gave an interesting lecture on the best means of preventing profaneness and immorality of pupils. Mr. Perry has for many years taken an active part in every movement whose object was the improvement of our schools or the general diffusion of knowledge, and probably no man in the county has labored more zealously or successfully. His remarks are always of that common sense, practical nature which are well and profitably received.

After listening to the lecture of Mr. Perry, the Association adjourned till Saturday morning, in order that the 'Common School Convention' might be organized, which was done by the appointment of Rev. Lyman Coleman, of Andover, Chairman, and Edwin Josselyn, Esq., of Salem, Secretary.

In the afternoon, the Convention was addressed by Hon. Horace Mann, Secretary of the Board of Education. It would be in vain to attempt a description of this address. Like all former performances of the kind which we have listened to from this gentleman, this was characterized by a vividness and healthy expression, force and clearness of thought, and soul-stirring effect, that can only be properly estimated by an actual hearer. Mr. Mann brings his whole soul to the great work in which he is engaged, and by his untiring industry and devotion he performs an almost incredible amount of labor—and we think that to his efforts many a child is indebted for the great improvements which have been made in the convenience, pleasantness and comfort of school rooms. Mr. M.'s address was followed by animated and interesting discussions.

On Saturday, the exercises before the Teachers' Association were lectures from Cornelius Walker, Esq., of Boston, and from

Hon. H. Mann, the former on reading and the latter on spelling. Neither time nor space would allow a synopsis of these lectures. Suffice it to say that they were listened to with *much* interest by the audience.

The attendance throughout these meetings was very respectable, and on no occasion have we seen a collection of female teachers so large, and apparently so intelligent, and of this number Salem could claim a very fair proportion.

The Essex County Teachers' Association has been in existence twelve years, and we rejoice in its brightening prospects of usefulness, and we hope to see the day when meetings like these, for the improvement of our schools and teachers, shall excite at least as much interest in our community as do our 'Mechanic Fairs,' 'Cattle Shows,' and other conventions or associations. And when we see such men as the Hon. Messrs. Phillips and Mann contributing their influence, as on this occasion, to encourage and sustain teachers' associations, we may well think that a "better day is dawning."

N.

Salem Gazette, Oct. 19, 1841.

TOPSFIELD ACADEMY. The winter term of this Institution will commence on Wednesday, December 1st, and continue 17 weeks.—The School will be under the charge of Mr. EDMUND F. SLAFTER, A. B., whose qualifications and experience in teaching may be regarded as a pledge, that a thorough and efficient course of instruction will be pursued, and that none will be disappointed who may place their children under his care.

Tuition in the English Branches \$5 per quarter

" " Languages \$6 " "

Board in respectable families, near the Academy, may be had for \$1.50 to \$2.00 per week.

B. P. ADAMS, Secretary.

Topsfield, Nov. 12.

Salem Gazette, Nov. 16, 1841.

Topsfield.—RICHARD PHILLIPS, jr., Esq., has been appointed Postmaster of Topsfield.

Salem Gazette, Dec. 14, 1841.

Seventy-nine persons signed a call for a State convention of dealers and manufacturers engaged in the boot, shoe, and leather business to consider impending changes in the tariff on leather fabrics. Among them were Richard Phillips and Charles Her-
rick of Topsfield.

Salem Gazette, Feb. 18, 1842.

TOPSFIELD, Feb. 24, 1842.

Mr. Editor,—At a meeting of the Manufacturers and Operatives of Topsfield, engaged in the Shoe and Leather business, holden at the Centre School Room, on Wednesday evening, Feb. 23, 1842, for the purpose of selecting a list of Delegates to the Convention to assemble at Boston, on Wednesday the second day of March next.

The meeting was called to order by R. Phillips, Jr., and Nath. Conant was chosen Chairmain, and H. D. Merriam, Secretary.

The following gentlemen were selected to cooperate with their friends in the trade from other parts of the State.

Erastus Clark,	G. Hubbard,
Charles Herrick,	Benj. Kimball,
R. Phillips, Jr.,	John Wright,
Zaccheus Gould,	J. L. Gould,
Josiah Bradstreet,	H. A. Merriam,
Joel Lake,	Humphrey Balch,
Wm. G. Lake,	E. S. Bixby,
Nath. Conant,	E. G. Town,
Eben. Eastman,	B. C. Perkins,
Samuel Janes,	E. Lake, Jr.,
R. Phillips,	L. H. Gould,
B. P. Adams,	Thos. Gould,
Nath. Perkins, Jr.,	L. K. Chapman,
T. L. Lane,	Adam Wellman,
Fred. Stiles,	L. H. Coll,
A. S. Peabody,	Andrews Gould,
Amos Perkins, Jr.	

Voted, That a committee be chosen to procure statistics relative to the trade in this town.

Salem Gazette, Feb. 25, 1842.

BANKRUPT APPLICANTS, IN ESSEX COUNTY.

Topsfield—Joseph W. Batchelder, Joel Lake, Silas Lake, Wm. C. Lake, Isaiah M. Small,

Salem Gazette, Mar. 1, 1842.

Applications for Bankruptcy, in Essex County.

Topsfield,—Thomas Averill, Abraham Balch, Samuel Janes, John Perley.

Salem Gazette, Apr. 29, 1842.

DIED. In Rumford, Maine, on the 21st inst., Rev. DANIEL GOULD, in the 90th year of his age. He was born at Topsfield, Mass., in 1752, and has relatives now living there. He was pursuing his studies, at "Dummer Academy," in Newbury, at the commencement of the Revolutionary war. But he, obeying the call of his country, went into its service at the commencement and continued there nearly two years. He and his brother Samuel were in a company of Guards under Maj. Gen. Lee. Upon leaving, he completed his studies at Harvard University, in Cambridge, where he was graduated in the year 1782. He then commenced the study of Divinity, and has, for the most of the time since, been a Minister of the gospel.

Salem Gazette, May 31, 1842.

☞ About \$175 were collected at the Fair, held by the ladies of Topsfield, on the 4th inst., for the purpose of raising funds to defray the expense of dressing a new church, to be erected the present season by the Congregational Society.

Salem Gazette, July 12, 1842.

DIED. In Irondequoit, N. Y., on Saturday afternoon, 30th ult. Dea. SAMUEL BRADSTREET, formerly of Topsfield, Mass., aged 52. He dropped down in a fit near the door of his dwelling and immediately expired. He was in the enjoyment of his usual good health, but thus, in a moment, struck down and his early career terminated.

Salem Gazette, Aug. 23, 1842.

DIED. In Topsfield, 12th inst. Mr. WILLIAM P. CUMMINGS, aged 24. Seldom is it that the grave closes over the remains of one more deeply lamented than the object of this obituary notice. Attached to this world by every tie that can render it dear, and at an age when ardent and cherished hopes held out every prospect of a long and happy life, he was suddenly called, after a short and painful illness of one week, to take a last farewell of earthly friends, and go and dwell with the blessed spirits above.

Salem Gazette, August 26, 1842.

THE BRIGADE REVIEW at Lynn yesterday, but for the unpropitious weather, would have been one of the most beautiful parades ever had in this quarter, * * * Some of the companies remained on the field last night, but the Topsfield Warren Blues passed through this city, on their way home this morning.

Salem Gazette, Sept. 16, 1842.

ACCIDENT IN TOPSFIELD. On Saturday last, a carpenter, by the name of Briant, was seriously injured by a fall from the staging at the eaves of the new meeting house, in Topsfield. One of the boards of the staging was of insufficient strength, and broke with his weight when he stepped upon it.

Salem Gazette, Sept. 20, 1842.

A CARD.

The Topsfield Warren Blues tender their thanks to the officers and members of the Lynn Rifle Corps for a sumptuous collation, of which they were cordially welcomed to partake, on the evening of the 14th. Also, to the citizens of Lynn for their kindness in providing lodgings, &c., for us while there.

Also, to the citizens of Danvers Plains, for a collation on their return.

Also, to the Manchester Brass Band, for their services and disposition to please during their campaign.

A. PERKINS, Jr., Clerk pro tem.

Topsfield, Sept. 20, 1842.

Salem Gazette, Sept. 23, 1842.

DIED. In Topsfield, 22 inst., Mr. JOSHUA TOWNE, aged 87, a soldier of the Revolution.

Salem Gazette, Sept. 27, 1842.

DIED. In Topsfield, on Saturday afternoon, after a long and distressing illness, Mr. WILLIAM PRESTON DODGE, aged 32.

In the death of this worthy man, his family and the community in which he lived have sustained an irreparable loss. With a disposition uniformly mild, amiable and conciliating, and which prompted to unwearied diligence in "doing good," and with a character distinguished for all those graces which adorn the life of a christian, Mr. Dodge not only enjoyed the confidence of his associates, but contributed in no small degree to their happiness. To all who have enjoyed his society his memory will be precious;—and, while they experience a high sense of satisfaction in reflecting upon the goodness of his character, may they feel disposed to follow in his footsteps, and to emulate his virtues.

The numerous circle of relatives and friends who are mourning this afflicting and mysterious dispensation of Providence, may find much consolation in the promises which the Gospel so richly affords. They mourn not as those without hope;—for while they remember the life of faithful piety which character-

ized the departed, they will rejoice in the assurance, that he is now removed from the sources of all his former afflictions, to that world where

"Sickness and sorrow, pain and death
Are felt and feared no more."—Com.

Salem Gazette, Oct. 11, 1842.

[Asa Pingree of Topsfield was nominated as a candidate for Senator, at a Locofoco Convention held at Ipswich on Oct. 12, 1842.]

Salem Gazette, October 14, 1842.

FIRE IN TOPSFIELD. We learn from a correspondent in Topsfield, that the dwelling house of Mr. Cyrus Webster caught fire on Sunday night last, but by the prompt and energetic exertions of Mr. Samuel Janes, and other neighbors, the flames were arrested and the house saved, with a loss of about fifty dollars damage. Had the fire been discovered five minutes later, the house, barn, sheds, &c., must have been destroyed, and the new meeting house, which is in progress of erection, and other buildings in this vicinity, would have been in imminent danger as the wind blew strong from the Northwest.

Salem Register, Oct. 20, 1842.

DIED. In Boston, on the 22d ult. at the residence of her son-in-law (Mr. Brownell), where she had gone in feeble health to spend the months of the coming winter, Mrs. RUTH B. EMERSON, widow of the late Mr. Billy Emerson, of Topsfield, at the advanced age of 75 years. In recording this brief memento to departed worth, it may justly be said, she served her generation by the will of God, and fell asleep, and has left a numerous circle of relatives in tears. Various were the relations she sustained in life and sedulously did she discharge the obligations consequent on those relations. The poor have lost a ready friend, the benevolent enterprises of the day a cheerful patron, the community a worthy citizen, and the church of God an honored member. Her life being eminently righteous, her death, as might be expected, was peaceful as the setting sun.

Servant of God, farewell ! farewell !

Thy battle's fought, thy prize is won ;

This be our consolation—all is well.—[Com.]

Salem Gazette, Nov. 1, 1842.

DIED. In Topsfield, Mrs. IRENA HUBBARD, wife of Mr. Humphrey A. Hubbard, aged about 40 years. This is a new affliction

in that series by which Mr. Hubbard's family has been recently visited in quick succession.—Last August in the space of one week, three promising children, all he had, were laid in the grave. In a few days, Mrs. Averill, the mother of Mrs. Hubbard, followed. The health of Mrs. Hubbard has ever been delicate, but now commenced a gradual decline which terminated her life.

She was naturally of an amiable, retiring disposition and anxious to deserve the respect and esteem of her acquaintance. But in her domestic relations, her excellence was more peculiarly developed. Few mothers were more affectionate and devoted, few wives more kind and attentive. Her delight was in her home, her happiness in the welfare of her family. Her death has made that home desolate. But her husband, though bereft of children and wife, is not compelled to sorrow as those who have no hope. His departed companion had for many years been a member of the church of Christ and there is reason to believe, a humble follower of the Redeemer. Her recent trials served to prepare her for death, and they may also have served to hasten the event. She rests, we trust, where sickness never invades; tears are never shed; and parting sighs are never uttered.

Salem Gazette, Nov. 29, 1842.

CONCERT IN TOPSFIELD. We have seen the programme of a Concert of Sacred Music to be given in Topsfield on Wednesday evening, 22d inst. The selections are from many of the best authors, and from what we know of the abilities of some of the performers we do not hesitate to assure our Topsfield friends that a rich treat is in store for them. The Concert is to be under the direction of Messrs. Moses Sears and Wm. R. Hubbard.

Salem Gazette, Feb. 21, 1843.

DEDICATION. The new Meeting House recently erected by the Congregational Parish, in Topsfield, will be dedicated on Wednesday, 22d inst. Sermon by Rev. Mr. M^cLoud, the Pastor. Services to commence at 2 o'clock, P. M.

Salem Gazette, Feb. 21, 1843.

DEDICATION IN TOPSFIELD.

The new meeting house recently erected by the Congregational parish in Topsfield was dedicated on Wednesday last. The services, which were highly interesting and impressive, were as follows:

Anthem—"Glory be to God on high." Invocation, and Reading of Scriptures, by Rev. Mr. Coggin, of Boxford.

Anthem—"The Great Jehovah is our awful theme."

Prayer, by Rev. Mr. Fitz, of Ipswich.

Original Hymn.

Sermon, by Rev. Mr. McLoud, pastor of the church.

Dedicatory Prayer, by Rev. Mr. Braman, Georgetown.

Original Hymn. Doxology. Benediction.

The sermon was from 95th Psalm, 6th and 7th verses. The preacher delineated in a forcible manner the duty of a regular and conscientious attendance upon the public social worship of God, and portrayed some of the many moral and spiritual privileges and advantages which those are sure to realize who go up to the House of the Lord in company, and who are careful to discharge the obligations, which attach to every community, to maintain public worship and to give at least one day in the week to the assembling themselves together,

"To hear of Jesus and of Heaven."

One remark of the preacher, however well it may apply to his own parish, would not be less opportune in many other churches. The hint so pointedly conveyed might be observed with profit by the members of other congregations than those widely scattered over country towns. He said that in the old house the attendance had been generally good, nevertheless *there were always some spare seats*, in which many more worshippers could be accommodated. He hoped it would not be so in future, but that in respect to the attendance of the people of the parish, "the glory of this latter house would exceed that of the former."

The discourse was a plain, practical, common sense production, creditable to both the head and heart of the preacher. If it be duly appreciated by those who heard it, much good will be the result.

The musical performances, under the direction of Messrs. W. R. Hubbard and M. Sears, were excellent, and peculiarly appropriate to the occasion.

The house stands upon the spot which the old one occupied, and is a neat, commodious and comfortable place of worship. The style of the finish and decoration, particularly of its interior, combines the simple and the beautiful in a very pleasing manner.

Salem Gazette, Feb. 24, 1843.

The editor of the Bangor Whig gives the following account of his visit to our little city :

SALEM, Aug. 12, 1843.

[Here follows some account of Salem.]

Here is Pinkham's stage at the door and as he never loses a trip, or meets with an accident, or neglects an errand, we would not fail, on any account, taking passage with him. Here we go, tanners and curriers, wool pullers and shoemakers must be vastly in the majority if their places of business is any sort of an indication. We have passed the quaker yellow buildings peculiar to Danvers, and are now fairly out into the country, and how grand it is. These old oaks and wide spreading elms with their portly bodies, how venerable and strong they appear. The corn and onions in what abundance they are cultivated and how rank they grow.

Salem Gazette, Aug. 22, 1843.

DIED. In Topsfield, Mr. CHOATE DWINNELL, aged 35—found dead in his bed. A Topsfield correspondent says: "His death was the effect of intoxication. A quantity of liquor was found in his room after his death; and, as no person in this town sells ardent spirits, the strong presumption is that this man procured the means of self destruction in your city."

Salem Gazette, Sept. 22, 1843.

 Hon. Asa Pingree, of Topsfield, declines being a candidate for re-election to our State Senate.

Salem Gazette, Oct. 3, 1843.

DIED. In Topsfield, on the 10th inst., Mr. SAMUEL HOOD, aged 81 years. He was a soldier in the war of the Revolution—and for many years after he was a distinguished mechanic in this city. The funeral will be on Wednesday, at 1 o'clock. Friends and relatives are requested to attend.

Salem Gazette, Dec. 12, 1843.

DIED. In Topsfield, on Saturday evening, Mr. TIMOTHY ROSS, aged 92 years and 6 months. He was actively engaged in the scenes of the Revolution and took part in several battles, among which were those of Trenton, Brooklyn and Bunker Hill. [Papers in Maine and New Hampshire please copy.]

Salem Gazette, Jan. 16, 1844.

Wood cut
of
House.

VALUABLE FARM
IN TOPSFIELD.

The subscriber offers for sale, his Farm in Topsfield, formerly the estate of the late Billy Emerson. Said Farm contains about thirty five acres, nearly all of which is *first rate Grass Land*. Also—a large, square, three story House in good repair; a beautiful garden, with choice Fruit and Ornamental Trees, a large Barn, Wood and Carriage House; two wells of excellent water, and other conveniences.

The above is one of the most desirable situations in the County of Essex, being beautifully situated in the immediate vicinity of a most enterprising and thrifty population; only nine miles from Salem, twelve from Newburyport and Haverhill; within a few rods of the new Congregational and Methodist Churches, and but a short distance from the Academy and Town Schools.

The premises can be examined and further information obtained of RICHARD PHILLIPS, JR., CHARLES H. HOLMES, or WM. CLEVELAND, Esqs., of Topsfield, or

GILBERT BROWNELL,
No. 94 Washington Street, Boston.
Salem Gazette, Jan. 30, 1844.

BRANCH RAILROAD.

An intelligent correspondent gives us the following memorandum, to show the advantages of a branch Railroad from Georgetown, to connect with the Eastern Railroad:

A route for a Railroad has been surveyed from Georgetown to Bradford, to connect with the upper route to Boston. One route has been surveyed from Georgetown to Ipswich, or old Rowley. A route from Georgetown, through Topsfield and North and South Danvers, would be a feasible route, and one which would pay a handsome profit; and it would accommodate the public much better than any other. The Georgetown people would get to Boston with some 3 or 4 miles less travel than by the upper route. The freight and passenger money would, from Georgetown, amount to \$12,000; from West Newbury, 3 or \$4000; Topsfield, \$3000; North Danvers. from 8 to \$12,000; South Danvers, probably 12 or \$14,000. It would be the route of shoe buyers from Lynn to Georgetown and S. Haverhill; would take the Southern travel which now goes on the upper route, and could be made cheap, as the route would be a very level one.

Salem Gazette, Feb. 2, 1844.

RAIL ROAD MEETING.

A numerously attended meeting of the citizens of North and South Danvers was held at Union Hall, in South Danvers, on Friday Evening, February 2d, to take into consideration the project of constructing a Railroad from Georgetown through the towns of Topsfield and Danvers, to intersect with the Eastern Railroad at Salem. A number of influential citizens from Topsfield were present.

The meeting was called to order by Elias Putnam, Esq., of North Danvers, and organized by the choice of Dr. Andrew Nichols as Chairman, and W. L. Weston, Secretary.

The objects of the meeting were briefly stated by the chairman, who was followed by John W. Proctor and Elias Putnam, Esqs., who set forth the advantages to be derived from such a road.

J. W. Proctor, Dr. Osborn, Elias Putnam, Samuel Preston, of Danvers, and John Wright, of Topsfield, were appointed a committee to prepare resolutions to be laid before the meeting. In the absence of the committee, the meeting was addressed in a spirited manner by Dr. Merriam and B. P. Adams, Esq., of Topsfield. They stated that they had conferred with a number of the leading citizens of Georgetown, who expressed themselves warmly in favor of the enterprise,—they had estimated that their business would pay from 12 to \$14,000 a year. Henry Poor of Danvers spoke of the business of South Danvers, and thought the amount would exceed that of Georgetown, and that his place would be benefited quite as much as any other of the places through which the road is proposed to pass; he could mention individuals whose freight bill alone would amount to 3 or \$400. Mr. Phillips of Topsfield thought the business of his place would exceed \$3000.

[Resolutions summarizing the intent of the meeting were adopted.]

Salem Gazette, Feb. 6, 1844.

GEORGETOWN, TOPSFIELD AND DANVERS RAILROAD. A survey of this route is now being made, by Mr. FREDERICK W. LANDER, engineer, of Danvers. The survey will be completed in a few days.

Salem Gazette, Feb. 13, 1844.

[On Feb. 14, 1844, Mr. Brackett, representative from Topsfield, presented to the Legislature, a petition from Samuel Adams and others, for the construction of a fishway through Farley's dam [Willowdale], on Ipswich river.]

Salem Gazette, Feb. 16, 1844.

Valuable Real Estate in Topsfield—at Auction.

By order of the Probate Court on TUESDAY, the second day of April next, at 10 o'clock, A. M., will be sold at Public Auction, in the town of Topsfield, on the premises hereafter described, for the purpose of raising the sum of fifteen hundred dollars to pay debts and charges of administration upon the estate of Isaac *Killam*, late of Topsfield, deceased, the following described parcels of Real Estate.

Woodcut The Homestead and Farm of said Isaac *Killam*,
 of
 House. consisting of the House and other buildings, and about 65 acres of land connected therewith, and lying on the north and south sides of the highway leading to Boxford—being mowing, tillage, pasture and meadow land—about three-fourths of a mile from Topsfield meeting-house, and on said Boxford road. Also, a Wood Lot in Boxford, about five acres, well wooded, and bounded by Oliver Peabody, Thomas Averill and others. Also, three and one half acres of River Meadow in Topsfield, bounded by the highway and near Rowley bridge on the east. Also, one acre of Brook Meadow, in said Topsfield, bounded by land of Josiah L. Gould, Foster, Allen Gould, and others. Also, three quarters of an acre of Peat Meadow, in said Topsfield, called the Gould Meadow.

Or so much of the above premises, beginning with the House and Buildings and land connected therewith, on the northerly side of the road aforesaid, as will raise the aforesaid sum of fifteen hundred dollars. Terms made known at the time of the sale. By order

ASAHEL HUNTINGTON, Adm'r.
 WM. G. LAKE, Auct.

Topsfield, March 11.

Salem Gazette, Mar. 12, 1844.

[The Convention to nominate County Commissioners was held at the Village Hotel in Topsfield on Wednesday, Mar. 27, 1844, Asa Wildes, of Newburyport (born in Topsfield), headed the list.]

Salem Gazette, Mar. 29, 1844.

☛ The "Report of the Topsfield School Committee" from the pen of R. Phillips, jr., Esq., is of uncommon interest.

Salem Gazette, Apr. 5, 1844.

TOPSFIELD ACADEMY.

The Spring Term of this Institution will commence on THURSDAY, April 18, and continue eleven weeks.

Tuition—English branches	—\$4.00
Languages,	\$5.00
Board in good families,	\$1.25 to \$1.75.
Per order of Committee.	

Salem Gazette, Apr. 16, 1844.

AT AUCTION IN TOPSFIELD.

On THURSDAY, the 18th of April current, at 3 o'clock, P. M., will be sold, at the store of B. P. ADAMS, Woodcut The following Real Estate, belonging to the estate of Frederick Perley, an insolvent, viz.
House.

The right to redeem the following Lots of Land, with the buildings thereon, viz:

One building Lot, bounded by Topsfield Road, 4 1-2 rods, and by land of John Sawyer, about 12 rods; by land of Moses Wildes, about 5 rods, and by land of Solomon Wildes, about 14 rods.

Also—A Lot of Land, bounded by Topsfield road 4 1-2 rods, and by land of Benjamin Kimball, about 16 rods; by land of Wm. Cleaveland, about 6 rods, and by Academy road, about 16 rods, to the bounds first mentioned; with one large Dwelling House, finished throughout, and convenient for 4 families; with stable 30 by 40 feet.

Also—1 share in Topsfield Academy.

J. H. WARD, Assignee.

Salem Gazette, Apr. 16, 1844.

To the Justices of the Court of Common Pleas, holden at Salem, within and for the County of Essex, on the third Monday of March, 1844.

The petition of Zaccheus Gould, of Topsfield, in said County of Essex, yeoman, shows that your petitioner is interested in and holds in common and undivided, certain parcels of Real Estate, viz: thirty-seven acres of wood and pasture land in the town of Boxford, bounded by Crooked pond; by land formerly Nath'l Gould's; by land of Oliver Kilham, and by land of John Baleh; his share of this parcel being six sevenths of one third part;

the other owners being David Towne and William Hubbard of Topsfield.

Eleven and three quarters acres of Woodland, situated in Boxford, bounded by land of Wm. Low, Samuel Gould, Israel Rea, and Andrew Gould, his share being six sevenths of one half; the other owners being Huldah Perley, wife of Artemas W. Perley of Hampstead, N. H., Mrs. Anna Lake, wife of Enoch Lake of Boxford, Daniel Boardman of Georgetown, Elizabeth James, wife of Samuel Janes of Topsfield, and Nancy Goodale, wife of Samuel Goodale of Boxford.

Five acres of tillage and pasture land, situated in Topsfield, bounded by land of Wm. R. Hubbard, Humphrey G. Hubbard, Benjamin F. Hubbard, all of Topsfield and Moses Wildes of Boston; his share of this parcel being six sevenths of the same, the other owners being Huldah Perley, Anna Lake, Daniel Boardman, Elizabeth Janes and Nancy Goodale before named if our petitioner is desirous of holding his share in said parcels of land in severalty. Wherefore he prays that partition of the premises may be ordered and that Commissioners, may be appointed to set off his share by metes and bounds, to be held by him and his heirs and assigns forever. And as in duty bound will ever pray.

ZACCHEUS GOULD by
J. W. PROCTOR, his Att'y.

[The persons at interest were ordered to appear at a Court held at Ipswich the third Monday in June following.]

Salem Gazette, Apr. 16, 1844.

Recent movements in the pleasant town of Topsfield exhibit a very commendable degree of public spirit, on the part of the inhabitants. The town has voted to build a new and suitable school house in every district, and have chosen a committee to build the same. There is also an active interest to ornament and improve the beautiful common by setting out ornamental trees and filling up ponds. A new meeting house, as our readers are aware, has recently been erected. The ladies of the Congregational parish are busily at work for the purpose of building a vestry. The ladies of the Methodist Society are as actively engaged, their object being to build a vestry under the church. Quite a number of dwelling houses are building this season, and a laudable interest is manifested in regard to improvements in general.

Salem Gazette, Apr. 30, 1844.

DIED. In Topsfield, Mr. STEPHEN W. LEMONT, aged 27—a native of Litchfield, (Maine),—a worthy and exemplary young man.

Salem Gazette, Apr. 30, 1844.

DIED In Topsfield, Jan 7, Mrs. KEZIA Hiscock, aged 23—a native of Chipman, County of Wiltshire, England,

Salem Gazette, Jan. 14, 1845.

DIED. In Manchester 21st inst, (at the home of her son-in-law, Rev. O. A. Taylor,) Mrs. EXPERIENCE CLEAVELAND, relict of the late Hon. Nehemiah Cleaveland, of Topsfield, in the 81st year of her age.

Salem Gazette, Jan. 31, 1845.

THE SNOW STORM, which commenced on Tuesday forenoon, continued through the greater part of the night, and is said to have been the most severe we have had for many years.* * * The Haverhill mail was taken by Mr. Pinkham in a light sleigh. * * * The snow is very deep, and the roads are almost impassable, back of us. Our friends in Topsfield turned out with great spirit, on Wednesday, to remove the embargo, at a cost to the town of about three hundred dollars. The process they adopted is ingenious, and seems preferable to the old fashioned "heater." They fastened a very heavy log, 8 or 10 feet in length across the front of the sled, and then filling the sled as heavily as possible with shovellers, and dragged by a sufficient number of oxen they pursued their route, thus levelling the high banks, and pushing the snow before the log over the bare places, so as to make good sleighing all the way through. They made the road good to the Danvers line, and at the Georgetown line they were met by the people of that town, who continued the good work. The Topsfield people aided Mr. Pinkham along, with his mails, partly by the road, and in part through the pastures, as far as Boxford.

Salem Gazette, Feb. 7, 1845.

FARM AT AUCTION.

Will be sold at public auction on TUESDAY, 25th day of March, inst., at 1 o'clock, P. M. in Topsfield.

The Farm formerly belonging to the late Isaac Killam, consisting of about seventy acres of good land, well divided in

mowing, pasturing and tillage; two never failing wells of water, the buildings consist of a large double house and large barn with a shed attached to the same, grainery, chaise house and piggery, and other out buildings, all in good repair, together with several choice fruit trees. Also, a very valuable peat meadow on said farm. Said farm is well fenced with good stone wall—situated on the main road from Salem to Boxford, about 3-4 of a mile from the flourishing village of Topsfield and in all respects a very desirable situation for a gentleman of leisure and worthy the attention of purchasers.

Sale will be positive on the premises. Conditions made known at time and place, which will be liberal. For further particulars enquire of

W. G. LAKE, Auct's.

Topsfield, March 4, 1845.

Salem Gazette, Mar. 7, 1845.

Accident. Mr. John Bradstreet, of Topsfield, a respectable young man, had his leg badly shattered on Wednesday last, while riding. He observed that his harness was out of place, and, when he was endeavoring to put it right, his horse kicked and broke his leg, mangling the flesh and causing it to bleed fearfully. He is now doing as well as could be expected, considering the severe injury he received.—*Reg.*

Salem Gazette, Mar. 25, 1845.

RICHARD PHILLIPS, Jr., of Topsfield, has been appointed one of the Justices of the Peace, and Coroner, for the County of Essex.

Salem Gazette, May 20, 1845.

FIRES IN SALEM. [In an account of a fire on Boston Street, occurs the following:] The large building, formerly the Topsfield meeting house, belonging to George Nichols, jr. and occupied by him and Charles Harrington, for tanning and currying, was a times on fire and somewhat injured, but saved by great exertions.

Salem Gazette, June 10, 1845.

ESSEX COUNTY.

The following well founded remarks, from the Haverhill Gazette, present a true picture of Essex County as it was, and is:—

Probably no portion of Massachusetts of the same extent, has furnished more emigrants to settle abroad in the different

States than the County of Essex. So great was the emigration that in the opinion of good judges there has been little if any increase of inhabitants for sixty years, prior to 1820.

The innumerable cellars and remains of chimneys now standing in the remote parts of almost every town, whose firesides had become extinct, compared with any increase which had then taken place in our towns and villages, go far to prove to population of this county was then rather declining than increasing.

Few manufactories had sprung up among us, except those strictly domestic. Many had settled on the poorer lands, from which the rich valley of the Connecticut, and the still richer lands of the West had tempted them to remove: their farms were sold out to become pastures to their more prosperous neighbors, and the houses were pulled down that the rich farmer might not be encumbered by the vicinity of some poor family, who from that time would naturally become their only tenants. It would be truly surprising to any one not acquainted with the fact, to go over our back grounds, and witness the numerous deserted locations which were once the abode of happy families, now desolate, and many of them actually buried in new grown forests.

The building of a new house was an important event in a town or neighborhood, and marked the year in which it took place. The houses were of course ancient, and almost all unpainted, and the painting white of the window frames and sashes of a certain house in Rowley, now Georgetown, was spoken of by a neighbor as marking the pride and aspiring disposition of the owner, who was frequently dignified by them with the title of "Prince."

About 1820, a new spirit came over the State and County, and from that time many more have come into the county than have left it. Under the Tariff of 1816 and '24, manufactories sprang up in every quarter. Our villages have increased—new buildings have risen, and any town or parish which does not add a half dozen dwellings a year to their accommodation is quite left behind its neighbors.

Since that time more than 200 houses have been built in Haverhill, Georgetown and Andover, 100 in Bradford, and a proportionate number in Topsfield, West Newbury and other towns in this part of the County, while the extraordinary increase of business in Lynn, Danvers, and other southern towns in the County, fully sustains their part of the statement.

The population of the County in 1790 was 57,913—in 1840 it was 94,987, and the business of the County has increased in a much larger ratio.

Salem Gazette, June 24, 1845.

NOTICE.

That portion of Danvers, hitherto called "Blind Hole," will hereafter be known by the name "Putnamville."

Salem Gazette, June 24, 1845.

Accident in Topsfield. We learn that on Saturday last, as Mr. Erastus Clark, a respectable and industrious farmer in Topsfield, was employed in tending a threshing machine, he had his right hand caught in the clogs of the cylinder, and the thumb and little finger were instantly torn entirely from the hand. The rest of the fingers and hand were also much bruised and lacerated—*Adv.*

Salem Gazette, Aug. 15, 1845.

Youthful Crime. Two young men belonging to Topsfield, one about 16, and the other 19 years of age, ran away from their parents one day last week, having in their possession about one thousand dollars in money and notes. Having been advertised in some of the papers, an interest was taken in the matter to secure them. On Tuesday, as the 3 o'clock train of cars was coming from Boston, one of the Express men attached to the road, discovered them by the description before given. Just before the cars arrived at Breed's wharf in Lynn, the little rascals leaped upon the marshes and endeavored to make their escape. Word being left with proper authority concerning their whereabouts, Constables Phillips and Stone were despatched in pursuit of them, and after a search of four hours, found them at Mr. Tilton's store, Front street, where they were awaiting the arrival of the next train for Portland, having previously purchased tickets to go through, but presuming they were detected, bolted the first opportunity. They were armed with dirk-knives and pistols, and made severe threats to any who should dare molest them.—*Advertiser.*

Salem Gazette, Sept. 2, 1845.

METHUEN AND NEWBURYPORT RAILROAD.

A writer in the Newburyport Herald thinks that the proposed road should run along upon the banks of the Merrimac accommodating Amesbury village with a depot somewhere not far from Powow river Bridge, and passing through Haverhill and the new city to Lowell. "Let Georgetown," says the writer, "be accommodated by a road from Haverhill to Salem, accommodating Topsfield in like manner, when they shall please to construct it."

Salem Gazette, Oct. 28, 1845.

We are indebted to Mr. C. Herrick, of Topsfield, for New York papers in advance of the mail.

Salem Gazette, Dec. 19, 1845.

DIED. In Topsfield, Dec. 9, Mrs. Mary Towne, aged 76, widow of the late Jacob Towne, Esq. Mrs. T. was a lady of no ordinary character. With an expansive mind and retentive memory she had acquired a knowledge of things in general, surpassed but by few, and many were they who sought of her that information of historical events long since past, which she was always ready to impart with precision and accuracy. She was fond of reading and when her time was not occupied by domestic or other important objects, she was storing it with useful knowledge. It is said of her and I believe with truth, that she had read every number of the *Salem Gazette* since its first publication, and had them preserved in file up to the time of her death. She was familiar with all the most important events which had transpired within her knowledge for the last sixty years. She was "a mother in Israel." Having a heart to feel and hand to give, and poor and needy found in her a friend and benefactor, and her deeds of charity endeared her to a large circle, who will long feel her loss. For nearly fifty years she was a member of the Church in Topsfield, and by her works manifested her faith—*Communicated.*

Salem Gazette, Jan. 6, 1846.

Bill of Mortality for the Town of Topsfield, for the year 1845.

Jan. 1, Benjamin Albert, only son of Benjamin Adams, aged 3 years; 7th, Mrs. Keziah Hitchcock, aged 22; 10th, Daniel Averill, aged 74. Feb. 16th, Ruth Eliza, only daughter of Benjamin Adams, aged 1 year. March 2d, Widow Sarah Balch, aged 75; 6th, Ellen Edna, child of L. H. Gould, aged 2. April 8th, Widow Salome Perkins, aged 75. June 9th, Mehitable Towne, aged 50; 22d, Daniel Towne, aged 56. Aug. 3d, Jane Beckers, aged 5; a child of William Fears, aged 8 mos. Sept. 9th, Abigail Perkins, wife of R. S. Perkins, aged 22 years; 20th, John Bachelder, aged 78. Oct. 1st, Anna Lake, wife of the late Enos Lake, aged 62; 6th, Joseph Peabody, aged 80; 17th, Joseph Hart, aged 70; 18th, Walter, son of Asa Bradstreet, aged 18 months; 29th, Harriet, wife of Ebenezer Eastman, aged 22 years. Nov. 15th, Mariette B., daughter of Wm. G. Lake, aged 10; 22d, Elizabeth, wife of Thomas L. Lane, aged 24;

27th, Edwin Wallace, only son of A. P. Averill, aged 7. Dec. 9th, Mary Towne, wife of the late Jacob Towne, aged 77.

Salem Gazette, Jan. 6, 1846.

DIED. In Topsfield, on the 22d ult, Mr. NATHANIEL PERKINS, jr., aged 32 years. He was a man possessed of sterling integrity, and unobtrusive but sincere piety; and was universally respected for his sincerity of heart, his gentlemanly deportment, and uprightness of character. During his life he uniformly displayed an unwavering attachment to his friends, a sincere love for the political institutions of his country and a deep reverence for morality and religion.

Within the brief period of a few weeks, the parents of the deceased have followed to the silent grave one son and two daughters; at that interesting period in life, when just setting out in the world for themselves, bright and promising, their parents' joy and hope, they were seized with that fell disease which annually sweeps off so many of the sons and daughters of New England.

Salem Gazette, Jan. 27, 1846.

TOWN OFFICERS IN TOPSFIELD, 1846.

Town Clerk—Jacob P. Towne.

Selectmen—John G. Hood, Wm. Hubbard, Thomas L. Lane.

Assessors—Nehemiah Balch, John Hood, Josiah Bradstreet.

Overseers—Jos. W. Batchelder, Wm. Hubbard, B. C. Orne.

School Committee—John G. Hood, Wm. E. Kimball, Thomas L. Lane, John C. Balch, David Clarke.

Salem Gazette, Mar. 13, 1846.

Danvers and Georgetown Railroad. At a meeting of this Corporation held last Wednesday afternoon, at the Town Rooms, the following gentlemen were chosen Directors for the ensuing year.

R. S. Daniels, George Osborne, Kendall Osborn, Henry Poor, David Daniels, E. W. Upton, Lewis Allen, John Kimball, R. A. Merriam.

Salem Gazette, Mar. 24, 1846.

[C. H. Holmes, assignee, advertised meetings of the creditors of William Wait, shoemaker, and Arial H. Gould, trader, both of Topsfield.]

Salem Gazette, May 9, 1846.

Assignee's Sale.

Will be sold at Public Auction on MONDAY, the 8th of June, at 2 o'clock, P. M., at the shop of HENRY LONG, in Topsfield,

All the personal estate of JOHN SAWYER, an insolvent debtor, consisting of one horse, one cow, horse-cart, sleigh, ploughs and various other articles; also several notes and bills of accounts.

After the sale of the above will be sold the real estate, consisting of a parcel of land near the Academy, in Topsfield, in lots to suit purchasers.

Also about two acres of River Meadow situated on the 'Bunkers' (so called), adjoining the barn lot.

Also about two acres of Peat Meadow on 'Hassocky Meadow,' (so called) bounded by land of Ebenezer Peabody, Nehemiah Perkins and others, in lots to suit purchasers.

Also about three fourths of an acre of Peat Meadow near the house now occupied by said Sawyer.

Also one undivided half of about two acres of Peat Meadow situated in Linebrook parish, in Ipswich near the house of Ephraim Averell.

Also all right and title in and to one undivided eighth part of about one hundred and twenty acres of land situated in Litchfield, county of Kennebec, State of Maine.

Terms made known at time and place of sale.

JOHN G. HOOD, Assignee.

Topsfield, June 2, 1846.

Salem Gazette, June 2, 1846.

DIED. In Topsfield, suddenly Mrs. ANNA, wife of Mr. John B. Lake, and daughter of Mr. Zaccheus Gould, aged 33 years. This is the second time (within the short period of three years) that Mr. Lake has been called to follow a beloved wife to the silent tomb; and the afflicted parent, two lovely daughters.

Salem Gazette, June 16, 1846.

Benjamin C. Orne has been appointed Postmaster of Topsfield, in place of Richard Phillips, jr., Esq., who might have kept the office, if he had been willing to purchase continuance at the usual rate.

Salem Gazette, Aug. 7, 1846.

FOR THE GAZETTE.

MR. EDITOR,—I preceive by accounts in your and other papers, that the potato crop, in this and other countries, is

affected with disease, so prevalent last year. From three years experience upon the different methods of raising this valuable root, I am convinced, that unless we cast off the new mode of its cultivation, the potato will become entirely extinct. I find that where the old mode of cultivation has been continued, there has been no trouble with the rot. I refer to the mode of earthing up the land. Where this is done, and has been continued for years, there is no trouble with the disease; but where the mode is adopted of keeping the ground level and not earthing it up at all, and where this mode has been continued for three or four years, the disease is prevalent. If good seed be planted one year, and cultivated by keeping the ground level, the next fall the crop, will not be so good as the seed planted in the previous spring, for the disease has slightly injured it. The second year if the produce of the first be planted, the disease will plainly show itself. The third year the crop will be very much affected. The disease is not produced entirely in one year, but continues to grow upon the crop as time increases, with the modern mode of cultivating the land level, and with but very little earth upon the potato to protect it from the severe rays of the sun. The earth is a preserver of the potato, if rightly managed, and the sun's rays are a sure poison, as any one will perceive by exposing a potato to the influence of the sun for a day or two. For the protection of the potato it is necessary to have it well covered up with the earth. The severe hot rays of the sun and water that must stand on the land after a rain, where the ground is kept perfectly level, are sure to effect the potato, and then commences the disease.

After considerable enquiry, I have found that those farmers in this vicinity who have never adopted the manner of keeping their land level, but who have always earthed up their potatoes, and have planted the potatoes so raised, have never had any trouble with their crop. Water should never stand for any length of time upon the potato, and in earthing up the hill it necessarily causes small dippers in the rows of potatoes, which hold the water and cause it to soak into the ground under the potato. If the water lay upon the potato, and it is but slightly covered with the earth, the extreme heat of the sun, with the water that must stand up on the potato, produce this disease which will destroy the crop in a few years, where the new mode of cultivation is continued.

TOPSFIELD.

Salem Gazette, Sept. 4, 1846.


Correspondence of the Salem Gazette.

TOPSFIELD, Sept. 26, 1846.

MR. EDITOR,—I am emboldened by the example of your Lynn correspondent, to inform you that the same game is going on here. Certain emissaries of the Malden Railroad frequently condescend to visit us, to enlighten our ignorance, and pull the wires so that we may send men to the County Convention who will subserve the interests of that corporation. I have been partial to that road, and intended to make an investment of some of my small means in it; but I must confess that my gorge rises at the idea of a Whig Senatorial Convention being made to play second fiddle to a little money making scheme, for the aggrandisement of a few individuals. If these acute managers should succeed in the ingenious scheme of packing the Convention, which they have attempted, its nominations will not be worth a pinch of snuff—The Whigs of Essex will not tamely submit to having their organization perverted, to put money into the pockets of the Malden Railroad Company.

TOPSFIELD.

Salem Gazette, Sept. 29, 1846.

 We are desired to mention, that the letter signed "Topsfield" in our last paper, was not written by the same person who wrote an article under that signature, in reference to potato rot, a few weeks since.

Salem Gazette, Oct. 2, 1846.

A MELANCHOLY END. The life of an elderly man, belonging to this city, was brought to a melancholy termination, on Friday of last week. His name was Knight, and some years ago, in a fit of intemperance, both his feet were so badly frozen that it was found necessary to amputate them. He has since sometimes been supported in our workhouse, from which he eloped about two months ago. Last Friday, he was found under a wall in Boxford or Topsfield, where it seems, he had been lying nine or ten days. He was removed, and taken care of, but survived only a short time, and was yesterday buried in this city.

Salem Gazette, Oct. 6, 1846.

RAILROAD MEETING.

At a railroad meeting held at Boxford, Nov. 4th, by a respectable number of gentlemen from Topsfield, Boxford and Georgetown.

Chose Col. John Kimball, chairman, and David Mighill, secretary of said meeting.

Chose a committee from the following towns, viz:—

Georgetown,—George J. Tenney, Col. John Kimball and Benjamin Little, Esq.

Boxford,—Gen. Solomon Low, Thomas Sawyer, Daniel Andrews and Samuel W. Jenkins.

Topsfield,—Dr. Joseph Batchelder, John Wright, and Charles Herrick.

The object of this meeting and the duty of the above committee is to lay before the Directors of the Salem, Danvers, and New City railroad, and the public, that the road ought to run through the manufacturing villages of Topsfield, Boxford both villages, and Georgetown to Andover north depot, rather than from Danvers to Swan's Corner (so called.) That the utility of railroads is to connect the interior of a country with the seaboard, this cannot be denied. We ask where in our county for the length of way, can be found a more level and convenient location for a railroad than through these flourishing villages of Topsfield, Boxford, Georgetown, and West Boxford, to North Andover depot. Not in our county, and we presume not in the state, and not more than four miles further than the contemplated route from Danvers to Swan's Corner (so called). If the contemplated route is rather a level way by following meadows and swamps, and the uplands hard and rocky; we ask if the grading cannot be done vastly cheaper where it is almost all upland and a sandy soil and free from rocky ledges? The question may be easily answered by a very poor philosopher. The route from Topsfield to Boxford, everybody knows who has travelled over the ground, that it is a level plain, and from thence to Georgetown, but one elevation of twelve or fifteen feet, and but a few rods in length, and thence running west of Georgetown village making a very small curve, and shunning all the hills, and having a level plain to West Boxford, and from there in a straight course between Mr. Daniel Harriman and Mr. Jedediah H. Barker, through the hollow, and running south of Andover pond and to North Andover depot. We are sanguine that this route can be graded for less money, than the contemplated route; and when your course to Swan's corner, reaches the furthestmost village, within five miles, we would ask any mathematical gentleman whether he can make four miles difference.

Taking into consideration these advantages, and when it is accomplished you will connect the very centre of the county with the seaboard, and greatly increase the value of the stock of

said road by a large number of tons of freight, and a goodly number of passengers. Even one of these villages amounts to 25 or 30 thousand tons annually; and not only these villages, but Bradford and West Newbury;—and on the other hand you will receive nothing of any amount, except at the two termini of said road, and all this loss to the advantages of the public and pecuniary advantages to said road, only to shun the making of four miles of road. Fine picture in the eyes of an enlightened public. You may say we will have a spur to Georgetown. Georgetown people are not of the low Dutch reformed, but of pure Anglo Saxon blood, too highly mettled to receive the goad or spur; they will do all in their power to forward the enterprise, and wish to share the advantages in common with their fellow citizens. And gentlemen, we wish you to view the ground with an unprejudiced eye, and we are self-confident you will answer our supplication.

The meeting stands adjourned to South Boxford, on Wednesday, (tomorrow,) at 7 o'clock, P. M.—A full attendance is requested—*Watchtower*.

Salem Gazette, Nov. 17, 1846.

TOPSFIELD ACADEMY.

The Winter Term will commence on MONDAY, Nov. 30th, and continue Twelve Weeks.

Tuition—for both males and females, \$4.50; Languages, \$1.00; Music, \$7.00; use of Piano, \$2 extra. Board \$1.50 to \$2 per week.

Application may be made to the Principal, or in his absence, to Mr. B. P. ADAMS, near the Academy.

JOS. H. NOYES,
Principal.

Salem Gazette, Nov. 17, 1846.

(*To be continued.*)

THE
EARLY RECORDS OF THE TOWN OF
TOPSFIELD, MASS.

COPIED BY HENRY F. LONG.

(Continued from Vol. XV, page 104.)

The Town agreed that no Parson shall dig or Carry of any stones or rocks from of y^e Parsonage above sd under the Pennalty of ten shilling per load for Every Load so dug or carried of voted

The Town agreed to fence in all y^e Parsonage Land in Topsfield with a Leagall stone wall—or other sufficient fence by y^e fift of march in 1724 voted

and also the Town agreed to fence in sd Parsonage Land by y^e same rule and the same ten years Rates that y^e Last Divisions of y^e Common Lands in Topsfield was divided by voted

and Mr Nath^l Porter Lieu^t Tho : Baker & mr Edward Putnam are Chosen a Com:itty to Apportion and Let to Every man his Proportion to fence about y^e above sd parsonage according to the rule as is above Expressed voted

The Town allowed to Tobijah Perkins jun^r six shilling for Timber to mend the Bridge by Decⁿ John howlets in y^e year 1722 voted o 6 o

The Town granted Liberty to y^e inhabitants of Topsf^d on y^e South Side of y^e River, to Build a Pound where it may be most convenient for sd inhabitants and the Town will pay y^e Charge voted

John Clark & Eben Nickols are Chosen Hogreeves for y^e
year Ensuing voted

Jacob Peabody being Chosen Town Clerk was sworn to
y^e faithfull discharge of y^t office before y^e Selectmen Corp^l
Nath^l Borman Dec Jn^o Howlett Thomas Gould Elisha Put-
nam & Jacob Peabody being Chosen Selectmen were Sworn
Assessors before the Last years Selectmen Corp^l Jacob
Robinson and Benj Knight being Chosen Constables were
sworn to y^e faithfull Discharge of their office before y^e
present Selectmen

Jn^o Hovey Edward Putnam & David Balch being Chosen
tythingmen were sworn to ye faithfull discharge of their office
before y^e present Selectmen

Joseph Andrew Jacob Dorman Tho: Dwinell & Francis
Peabody being Chosen Surveyers of highways were Sworn
to y^e faithful discharge of their office before the present
Selectmen Clerk Elisha Perkins & Lieu^t Thomas Baker and
Corp^l Joseph Town being Chosen fence viewers were Sworn
to y^e faithfull discharge of their office before y^e present Se-
lectmen John Clark and Eben: Nickols being Chosen hog-
reeves were sworn to y^e faithfull Discharge of their Office
before y^e present Selectmen the persons above Named that
were sworn were all sworn on y^e fift and on y^e Eighth Days
of March 1722-3

attest Jacob Peabody Town Clerk

Sarg^t Amos Dorman being Chosen Sealer of Leather was
sworn to y^e faithfull Discharge of that office before y^e Select-
men on y^e 25 day of March 1723

The free holders and other inhabitants of y^e Town of Tops-
field Such as are Qualified as y^e Law Directs for Voting: are
hereby notified to meet at y^e meeting house in Topsfield:
on Munday y^e twentyfift day of March Currant at two of
y^e Clock in y^e afternoon first to Choose and agree with a
Schoolmaster. 2ly to see if the Town will give Liberty for
Swine to go at Large. 3ly to see if the Town will Lett y^e
Parsonage to Either of those men that Lately appeared to
Hire it or Else return their Earnest money [234] 4ly To

Choose men and impower them to make y^e fence about the Parsonage Land in Topsfield, where any person or Persons shall Refuse or neglect, to make his or their proportion of sd fence according to y^e Town order at y^e Last Town Meeting in Topsfield.

Jacob Robinson Constable of Topsfield

Jacob Peabody by order of y^e rest of y^e Selectmen of Topsfield

At a Lawfull Town meeting in Topsfield on y^e 25 of March 1723 Deaⁿ Daniel Redington is Chosen Moderator for this meeting voted

Mr John Hovey is Chosen Schoolmaster for y^e year Ensuing and the Town agreed with s:d Hovey for twenty shillings for being Schoolmaster voted

The Town agreed that Swine may go at Large according as the Law gives Liberty voted

the Town ordered that Samuel Bradstreet should have his money that he Laid down to the Town, as Earnest for y^e Parsonage voted

The Town Ordered that Corp^l Eliezer Lake should have his money that he Laid down to y^e Town as Earnest for the Parsonage voted

The freeholders and other inhabitants of y^e Town of Topsfield Such as are Qualified as y^e Law Directs for voting; are hereby Notified, to meet at the meeting house in Topsfield on Wednesday y^e Eighth of May Currant at two of y^e Clock in y^e afternoon; first to Chuse a Representative 2ly to Choose jurymen for Ipswich Court; and also to act upon any other thing or things that y^e Town shall then think needfull and Proper to be done.

Dat ^d Topsfi ^d May y ^e 3 ^d 1723. Thomas Gould	} Selectmen of Topsfield
Jacob Robinson Constable. John Howlet	
Elisha Putnam	
Nathaniel Borman	
Jacob Peabody	

At a Lawfull Town Meeting in Topsf^d May: 8th 1723 first
Decⁿ Daniel Redington is Chosen Moderator for this meeting
voted

En: Timothy Perkins is Chosen to Represent the Town
at y^e General Court at their several Sessions y^e year Ensuing:
voted

Decⁿ Daniel Redington is Chosen to Serve on y^e grand
jury and Edward Putnam and Nath^l Porter are Chosen to
Serve on y^e jury of Tryals at y^e next Superior Court to be
holden at Ipswich
voted

Boston May y^e 7th: 1723 then Rec^d of Mr Allen Treasur-
er four Pounds in Bills of Credit, it being so much due to
y^e Town of Topsfield, for a Wolf Killed in sd Town: in part
for my serving at y^e General Court in the year 1722: by or-
der of the Selectmen of Topsfield

I say Rec^d by me Daniel Clark

Exam:^d and Entred by me Jacob Peabody Town Clerk
for Topsfield

Rec^d of Thomas Dwinell Constable of Topsfield the sum of
four Pounds Nineteen shill^s & four pence in full for y^e County
Rate for y^e s:d Towne for y^e year 1722

Ipswich may 22: 1723 P John Appleton County treas^r

A true Copy attest Jacob Peabody Town Clerk

[235] At a Lawfull Town meeting in Topsfield Sept^r y^e 10th
1723 Corp^l Nath^l Borman & Serg^t Zacheus Gould are chosen
to Serve on y^e Jury of Tryals at the Next Inferior Court to be
holden at Newbery within and for y^e County of Essex

The freeholders and others inhabitants of y^e Town of Tops-
field such as are Leagally Qualified for voting are hereby
Notified & warned to meet at y^e Meeting house in Topsfield,
on fryday y^e Twenty fift day of October Current at Twelve
of y^e Clock on sd day. first to Agree upon some way and
Method for y^e fencing in & improveing y^e Parsonage Land in
Topsfield and for building a house on said Parsonage land

To Chuse men and impower them to Prosecute in the Law any Person or Persons that have Already Dug or Carried of any stones or rocks from of y^e above said Parsonage Land: in Topsfield: or that shall hereafter Presume to Dig or Carry of any stones or rocks from of y^e above said Parsonage Land: Contrary to ye Town order made on y^e fift Day of Last March To give some further instructions or Order to y^e Trustees viz Cap^t Joseph Gould Cap^t Thomas Baker & Dea John Howlet for their future Proseeding in Letting out y^e Towns money: To allow to y^e Reverend Mr Joseph Capen Nine pound as formerly. And also to allow bills of charge. and to act upon any of y^e Peticulars Above Mentioned as y^e town shall then think best.

Dat: Topsfield October the 14 1723

Jacob Robinson Constable

Thomas Gould } Slecet-
Nath^a Borman } men of
Jacob Peabody } Topsf^d

At a Lawfull Town meeting in Topsfield: October y^e 25: 1723 first Dea John Howlett is chosen Moderator for this meeting. voted

The Town agreed that y^e Trustees viz: Cap^t Joseph Gould Cap^t Thomas Baker & Dea^a John Howlett shall Let out y^e towns money at one shilling upon the pound for interest: by y^e year for the future and to Let out said money but from year to year as they shall receive orders from y^e Town. and y^e some or Sums of sd money to Let: to be as y^e Town hath formerly agreed upon: voted

The Town allowed to y^e Reverend Mr Joseph Capen nine pounds to add to his salary for this year voted

the Town allowed to Joseph How one pound three shillings for sweeping y^e meeting house one year past voted 01 3 0

The Town allowed to Elisha Putnam a former Constable twelve Shillins and six pence it being an allowance for Nathan Kennes Rates voted 00 12 06

The Town allowed to Jacob Perkins: five shillins & six pence for mending y^e Meeting house glass in y^e year 1721
voted 00 05 06

the town allowed to Qua^{ster} Nath^l Borman two shillings for giting a warrant Entred at y^e Quarter sessions at Newbery this year
voted 00 02 00

The Town allowed to mr Jacob Robinson Constable one shilling for warning John Pickit out of Town voted 00 01 00

Boston July, 1^s 1723

Rec^d of M^r David Balch Constable of Topsfield Twenty Pounds twelve shillings & nine pence in full for my Master Jer: Allen Treasurer. £ 20-12-9 P Geor: Rogers

Rec:d of Mr David Balch as Constable for Topsfield for y^e year 1722 y^e full & just sum of three pounds twelve shillings which he was Ordered by the Selectmen of Topsfield for y^e year afore said to Collect & Deliver to me I say rec:d y^e sum above said this 12th of March 1722-3 per me Joseph Capen

Topsfield, May 27: 1723: then Rec^d of David Baltch Constable two shillings in full of what was Ordered to me by y^e Selectmen. I say recivd By me Thomas Gould

These three Receipts Last Entred are true Copies: Examined:

P Jacob Peabody Town Clerk

[236] Topsfield October: 15 1723 Then Rec^d of Constable Balch for serving at the General Court the Sum: sixteen pound seven shillings in full what was Ordered him to Pay me I say rec^d by me

Daniel Clark

Topsfield May y^e 18 day 1723 Rece^d of David Baltch Constable y^e sum of seven shillings in full which was ordered to me by y^e Selectmen for my husband Averills sweeping y^e meeting house:

I say reci^d by me y^e widow Mary Averill

Topsfield ffebruary: 14: 1722-3 Rec^d of David Balch Constable Nine shillings and Six pence in full of what was ordered to me by y^e Selectmen

I say rec^d by me Samuel Howlett

Topsfield August: 17: 1723 Rec^d of David Balch Constable y^e sum of two shillings & six pence in full of what was ordered to me by y^e Selectmen of y^e Town I say Rec^d by me Elesha Perkins These four Receipts, above Entred, are true Copies: Attest Jacob Peabody Town Cler

The freeholders & other inhabitants of y^e Town of Topsfield such as are Qualified as y^e Law Directs for Voting are hereby Notified to meet at the meeting house in Topsfield: on Tuesday y^e tenth Day of December Current at twelve of y^e Clock on s:d Day: first To Chuse an Agent or Agents to Answer to y^e Towns Presentment for not being Provided with a grammar School-master. 2^{ly} to agree upon some Method to Improve y^e intrest of y^e towns Loan money 3^{ly} to allow bills of Charge

Dat: Topsfield Decem ^r : 4 th 1723	Thomas Gould	} Selectmen of Topsfield
Jacob Robinson Constable of	John Howlett	
Topsfield	Jacob Peabody	

At A Lawfull Town meeting in Topsfield Decem^r 15th 1723. first Deaⁿ John Howlett is Chosen moderator for this meeting voted

Deaⁿ Jn^o Howlett & Mr. Nath^l Porter are Chosen Agents for y^e town to appear at y^e next Inferiour Court to be holden at Salem to answer to y^e Towns Presentment for not being provided with a grammer Schoolmaster voted

The town agreed that y^e Selectmen shall Recive the intrest of y^e Towns Loan money of the Trustees: & pay the Towns Debts therewith as far as it will go voted

the Town agreed that y^e Selectmen shall raise money to pay y^e Representative this year: voted

the Town allowed one shilling to Joseph How for mending y^e meeting house Latch voted

Whereas Thomas Demsi was rated in y^e year 1722 to Several Rates y^e sum of nine shillings & six pence: and sd Demsi then being & still is in his Majesties Service so that y^e Constable cannot yet recover sd Demsis rats Therefore the Town allowed to David Baltch Constable, nine shillings & six pence
o 9 6 voted

the Town granted Liberty to Mr Nath^l Porter Joseph Town & others to sit up a stable near to m^r Capens fence
voted

The Town granted Liberty to Thomas Gould & Cap^t Joseph Gould to set up a stable near y^e Little Pond on y^e south of y^e meeting house
voted

Decem^r 31: 1723 Then Rec:^d of y^e Select men by y^e hand of Thomas Gould for part of my wages for going Representative: the sum of Nine pound six shillings: I say rec:^d by me Timothy Perkins

Received of mr David Baltch as Constable for Topsfield y^e full of what was Committed to him to Collect for my use for y^e year 1722 I say rec^d in full this 18: Day of feb^{ry} 1723-4 per me Joseph Capen

These two receipts Last Entred are true Copies attest Jacob Peabody Town Clerk

[237] The freeholders & other inhabitants of this Town Such as are Quallified as y^e Law Directs for Voting are hereby Notified to meet at y^e meeting house in Topsfield on Tuseday y^e third of March next after the Date hereof at Eight of y^e Clock in y^e morning first to Choose a Town Treasurer & other Town officers as y^e Law directs

To Chuse a Committe to Seat People in the Meeting house

To See if y^e Town will Chuse a Committe to Settle bounds with Boxford

To agree upon some Method to Improve the Parsonage Land in Topsfield

Dat ^d Topsfiel ^d ffeb ^{ry} y ^e 18 th 1723-4	Thomas Gould	} Selectmen of Topsfield
Jacob Robinson	Constable of John Howlett	
Topss ^d	Jacob Peabody	

At a Lawfull Town meeting of y^e Inhabitants of Topsfield on y^e third of March 1723-4

Decⁿ John Howlett is Chosen Moderator for sd meeting
voted

Jacob Peabody is Chosen Town Clerk for y^e year Ensuing
voted

Eliezar Lake & Edmon Town are Chosen Constables; for y^e
year Ensuing voted

Nath^l Porter, Decⁿ John Howlet, Joseph Town, Elisha
Perkins & John Hovey are Chosen Selectmen for y^e year
Ensuing voted

William Porter William Town & John Willds are Chosen
Tythingmen for y^e year Ensuing voted

En: Amos Dorman is Chosen Sealer of Leather for y^e year
Ensuing voted

Luke Averill John Town John Dwinell & Daniel Town are
Chosen: Sirveyers of highways for y^e year Ensuing voted

Joseph Dorman John Willds Tho^s Robinson & Eben:
Nicholls are Chosen fence viewers for y^e year Ensuing voted

Joshua Town & John Perkins are Chosen Hogreeves for
y^e year Ensuing voted

Cap^t Joseph Gould, Cap^t Tho^s Baker, Ivory Hovey, Thom-
as Robinson & Mr Simon Bradstreet, are Chosen a Com-
mitte to Seat People in y^e meeting house voted

The Town Agreed that the Orders Relating to y^e Preseru-
ing the wood & Timber and also the stones or rocks, on the
Parsonage Land in Topsfield, that was made in y^e year 1723.
shall stand good for this year folloing voted

And Thomas Gould Nath^l Borman & Nath^l Porter are
Chosen Agents or Attorneys in behalf of y^e Town to Prose-
cute any Person or Persons that shall Presume to Brake
Either of y^e above sd Orders voted

and the Major part of sd Agents or Attorneys shall act
in y^e concern about the Parsonage and y^e Town to bear
them out in all Lawfull Proseedings therein voted

Doc^t Michael Dwinell is Chosen to serve on y^e grand jury
and William Redington & Joseph Robinson are Chosen to
serve on y^e Jury of Tryals at y^e next Inferiour Court to be
holden at Ipswich voted

En: Amos Dorman is Chosen Schoolmaster for the year
 Ensuing voted

the Town agreed to give 20 shillings to En: Amos Dor-
 man for keeping school this year voted

En: Amos Dorman Qu: master Ephraim Willds & En:
 Timothy Perkins are Chosen A Committe, to Joyn with
 such men as Boxford shall appoint to Settle the bounds be-
 tween Topsfield & Boxford voted

The Several Persons Chosen into Office at y^e above sd
 meeting of whom an oath is by Law required: all took y^e
 oath to Their respective Offices on y^e third day of march
 1723-4 before y^e Selectmen attest Jacob Peabody Town Clerk

At A Lawfull Town meeting in Topsfield on y^e seventh of
 Aprill 1724. the Town agreed that swine should go at Large
 this year according as the Law gives Liberty voted

[238] The freeholders & other Inhabitants of y^e Town of
 Topsfield Quallified for Voting as y^e Law Directs are Notified
 & warned to meet here at y^e meeting next Wedensday at
 three of y^e Clock in the after noon it being the thirteenth of
 May Currant, ffirst to Choose a Representative to serve at
 the great and general Court. to be hild at Boston on y^e Last
 Wedensday of May Instant 2d To Choose Jurymen to serve
 at Ipswich Court to be holden on y^e third Tuseday of this
 Instant May

Dat ^d Topsfield May 6 th 1724	Elisha Perkins	}	Select-
Eliezar Lake Constable of Topsfi ^d	Nath ^l Porter	}	men of
	John Howlet	}	Topsf:
	Joseph Town	}	
	John Hovey	}	

At A Lawfull Town meeting in Topsfield May y^e 13th 1724
 ffirst Dea: John Howlett is Chosen moderator for this meet-
 ing voted

M^r John Hovey is Chosen to Represent y^e Town at y^e
 general Court the year following voted

Cler: Elisha Perkins is Chosen to serve on y^e grand jury
 & Jacob Town and Joseph Town are Chosen to serue on y^e
 Jury of Tryals at the Next Superiour Court to be holden at
 Ipswich voted

We whose names are under written have meet & Perambulated and renewed bounds: Begining at a heap of stones near Mr Porters Meadow and Runing to a Plump of maples and Runing as the Brook runs to a stone & a stake in y^e brook near too Robinsons Island: and so runs to a stake and heap of stones on s^d Island as y^e Line Runs & so to Pigdens meadow and to the River as formerly

May y^e 4 1724

Edmond Town	} for Topsfield	John Batchelder	} for Wenham
David Balch		Benja: ffisk	
Elisha Perkins		John Gott	

A True Copy of y^e return. attest Jacob Peabody Town Clerk

At A Lawfull Town meeting in Topsfield Sept^r y^e 8th 1724
Mr: Simon Bradstreet & John Perkins are Chosen to serve
on y^e Jury of Tryalls at y^e Next Inferiour Court to be hold-
en at Newbery voted

At a Lawfull Town Meeting in Topsfield Decem y^e 15th
1724 Mr Isaac Peabody is Chosen Moderator for this meeting
voted

The Town allowed to Deaⁿ John Howlett one pound Eighteen shillings sd Howlet having Paid so much for giting y^e meeting house glass mended voted 1 18 0

the Town allowed to Corp^l Tobijah Perkins one shilling & six pence for Timber to mend the Bridge near to Luke Averills in 1724 voted 0 1 6

the Town allowed to Nath^l Capen one shilling two pence for two hundred of Lath Nails to nail up y^e meeting house glass in 1724 voted 0 1 2

the Town allowed to Deaⁿ John howlet and m^r Nath^l Porter two pound five shillings & six pence for Court Charges and their attendance at Salem Court: December 1723 to Answer to y^e Towns Presentment for want of a grammer School voted 2 5 6

the Town allowed to Jacob Peabody one shilling sd Peabody having Paid for a Copy of the Sommens to Answer y^e above sd Presentment voted 0 1 0

[239] Whereas y^e Selectmen warned ffrancis Johnson out of town & got y^e warrent Entred in y^e Court Records the Town allowed to M^r Nath^l Porter five shillings for giting sd warrent Entred as is above mentioned voted 0 5 0

the Town allowed to Cap^t Thomas Baker seven shillings & six pence for timber to mend the falls Bridge in 1724
voted 0 7 6

the Town Allowed nine pound to be Added to M^r Capens stated Sallary y^e year following voted

the Town allowed five shillings to Clerke Elisha Perkins for giting y^e warrent Entred in y^e Court Records of Nath^l Ramsdells being Warned out of Town voted 0 5 0

Lastly the Town agreed that y^e present selectmen should recieve the intrest of y^e Towns Loan Money of y^e Trustees: which is due to the Town for y^e year past: and sd Selectmen are to Pay the Town Debts therewith voted

At A Lawfull Town Meeting in Topsfield Jan^{ry} the 12 1724-5

the Town allowed four shillings & six pence to Luke Averill for timber to mend y^e highways in the year 1724
voted 0 4 6

The Town allowed three shillings to Sam^l Howlett and three shillings to Joseph How for helping M^r: Lord about mending y^e meeting house glass in 1724 voted 0 6 0

The Town Allowed two shillings to Joseph Andrew for Timber to mend the Mille Brook bridge in y^e year 1723
voted 0 2 0

The Town allowed two shillings & six pence to Constable Eliezer Lake for Warning ffrancis Johnson & Nath^l Ramsdell out of Town voted 0 2 6

the Town allowed two shillings & Six pence to mr Nath^l Porter and two shillings and six pence to Corp^l Joseph Town for Perambulating with Salem in 1724 voted 0 5 0

the Town Allowed to Clerk Elisha Perkins David Baulch & Edmon Towne two shillings to Each of them for Perambulating with Wenham men in y^e year 1724 voted 0 6 0

the Town allowed twelve pound to mr John Hovey for serving representative sixty days at the General Court in y^e year 1724 voted 12 0 0

the Town allowed five shillings to Nath^l Capen for helping Mr Lord about mending y^e meeting house Glass in y^e year 1724 voted 0 5 0

Lastly the Town allowed Eighteen shillings to Cap^t Joseph Gould Cap^t Thomas Baker and Deaⁿ John Howlett for their trouble in Leting out y^e Towns money the year past voted 0 18 0

Whereas we the Subscribers were ordred & impowered by the Selectmen of Topsfield to Perambulate on the Line and to renew the bounds between Topsfield & Boxford: accordingly meeting at time and Place with Cap^t Thomas Perley and Lieu^t Joseph Hale who were Likewise appointed by y^e Selectmen of Boxford for that service sd Cap^t Perley & Lieu^t Hale told us that Except We would Promise to go throughout and Renew or Settle the bounds between said Towns according to y^e General Court Resolves, they wholly Declined the service: and so gave this as A Reason, that they was informed that the Town of Topsfield had att a Town meeting Chosen a Com:itte for that Purpose: and so we could proseed no farther in order of Perambulation.

Dated y^e 12 of May 1724

Jacob Town
John Curtis

This is a True Copy Attest Jacob Peabody Town Cler

The freeholders & other inhabitants of this Town Qualified as y^e Law Directs for voting are to take Notice to meet here at the meeting house on y^e first Tuseday in march next Ensuing y^e Date hereof at Eight of the Clock in y^e morning: first to Choose Town Officers as the Law Directs.

To see if the Town will make Choice of a meet person to mend any breach in or on the meeting house as need shall require or to doe any other thing or things as shall then be

thought needful. by order of the Selectmen of Topsfield
Dated Topsfield ffeb:y 19: 1724-5 Nath^l Porter

Edmond Town Constable of Topsfield

At A Lawfull Town meeting in Topsfield on y^e Second
Day of march 1724-5

Mr Nath^l Porter is Chosen Moderator for this meeting
voted

Jacob Peabody is Chosen Town Clerk for the year Ensuing
voted

Jacob Dorman and Benj^a Town are Chosen Constables for
y^e year Ensuing voted

John Hovey Jacob Estey William Porter Michael Dwinel
and Dea John Howlet are Chosen selectmen to order y^e Pru-
dentiall affairs of the Town for y^e year Ensuing voted

Joshua Town Jacob Robinson & Thomas Dwinel are Chos-
en Tythingmen for the year Ensuing voted

En: Amos Dorman is chosen Sealler of Leather for y^e
year Ensuing voted

Deaⁿ John Howlet Sam^l Bradstreet and Thomas Gould
Richard Town and Thomas Caves are Chosen Sirveyers of
highways for y^e year Ensuing voted

Corp^l Jacob Town Samuel Curtis Tobijah Perkins and
Jesse Dorman are Chosen fence viewers for ye year Ensuing
voted

John Willds and John Perkins are Chosen to make search
into the Turrit of the meeting house to see what repairing it
wants and to make Report thereof at y^e next Town meeting
in Topsfield voted

Cler: Elisha Perkins is Chosen Grand Jury man for y^e year
Ensuing voted

Tobijah Perkins & Jacob Peabody are Chosen to serve on
y^e jury of Tryals at the next inferiour Court to be holden at
Ipswich voted

Mr Simon Bradstreet is Chosen Schoolmaster for y^e year
Ensuing voted

John Nicholes & and John Burton are Chosen to rebuild
Topsfields part of the Bridge over the y^e River Near to Ed-
ward Putnams between Topsfield and Boxford and to bring
their account to the Town when sd Work is Done and they
shall be reasonably allowed by y^e Town for sd service voted

En: Amos Dorman & Serg^t Tho: Robinson are Chosen
hogreeves for y^e year Ensuing voted

The Persons Chosen to office at the above s:^d meeting viz.
Town Clerk, Constables, Tythingmen, Sealer of Leather,
Sirveyors of highways, fence viewers, and Hogreeves all ap-
peared at the house of mr Daniel Clark immediately after
y^e sd meet[ing] was over and took the oath belonging to their
Respective offices before y^e Selectmen: Excepting Richard
Town

At A Lawfull Town meeting in Topsfield on y^e 29 day of
march 1723 The Town agreed that swine should go at Large:
y^e year following with as Much Liberty as the Law Allowes
of voted

The freeholders & other inhabitants of this Town such as
are Quallified according to Law for Voting are to take Notice
to meet at y^e meeting house on fryday the seventh of May
next after the Date hereof at two of the Clock in y^e after-
noon

To Choose A man to Represent them in the Great & Gen-
eral Court to be holden at Boston the Twenty six day of
May next. 2ly To Choose Three good & Lawfull Men to
serve upon y^e Jury at y^e Superior Court to be holden at
Ipswich the Third Tuseday of May next one whereof to
serve on the Grand Jury and y^e other two upon y^e Jury of
trials

To see if the Town will Choose A Committee to new seat
the People in y^e Meeting house

Dated Topsfield Aprill: 28: 1725

Jacob Dorman Constable

John Hovey
in y^e name and by
Order of y^e Selectmen
of Topsfield

At A Lawfull Town meeting in Topsfield May y^e 7th 1725
 1: Dea John Howlett is Chosen Moderator of s^d meeting
 voted

2: Dea John Howlett is Chosen to Represent the Town at
 General Court to be holden at Boston on the Twenty sixth
 Day of this Instant and at their several sessions till s^d Court
 be Desolved
 voted

M^r Isaac [Peabody?] is Chosen to serve on y^e Grand Jury
 and Cap^t Tho: Baker & Mr. Tho: Gould are Chosen to
 serve on y^e Jury of Tryalls at y^e next Superior Court to be
 holden at Ipswich
 voted

Mr Thomas Gould Corp^l Eliezer Lake Corp^l Jacob Town
 and Serg^t Ivory Hovey are Chosen A Committee to new
 Seat People in the Meeting house
 voted

The freeholders & other Inhabitants of this Town Quall-
 fied according to Law for voting are to take notice to meet
 here at the meeting house on Tuseday the 20th of July Cur-
 rant at two of y^e Clocke in the afternoon

To see if the Town will Choose a Committe to see to y^e
 supply of the Pulpit with a Minister: 2ly To see what the
 Town will Contribute towards the Funeral Charges of y^e Rev-
 erend m^r Joseph Capen late Deceased

and to doe any other thing or things as shall be thought
 needful

Dated July 7; 1725
 Jacob Dorman Constable

William Porter	} Selectmen of Topst ^d
John Howlett	
Jacob Estey	
Michael Dwinel	
John Hovey	}

At A Lawfull Town meeting in Topsfield July y^e 20th 1725
 M^r Isaac Peabody is Chosen Moderator for this meeting
 voted

The Town Did manifest by a vote that they were willing
 to Choose a Committe to make inquiry after & git a Minis-
 ter to Dispence the word of God Amongst us for a while

Dea Daniel Redington Deaⁿ John Howlett Cle: Elisha Perkins Serg^t Ivory Hovey & En: Amos Dorman are Chosen a Committe to Procure a Minister or Scholar to Dispence the word of God amongst us for Ten weeks from this time & they are to ask advice of the Neighbouring Ministers in order to the procuring a suitable person for said service voted and said Commtte are fully impowered to agree with a minister or Ministers for y^e above said service & Term & the Town will pay the Cost voted

the Town agreed to adjourn this meeting voted

the Moderator Ajourned this meeting till the first Tuseday of August next at two of the Clock in y^e after noon

At A Lawfull Town meeting held by adjournment from y^e 20 of July 1725 to the third day of August 1725 and then met & having Discoursed of how much and in what way to Contribute towards the funeral Charges of the Reverend Mr Joseph Capen Deceased, it was generally Concluded that y^e best way was for Every man to subscribe to give what he Pleas^d and Ivory Hovey, Joseph Town, & Thomas Robinson are Chosen & Desired by the Town: to go to all the inhabitants of Topsfield not present: to see what they will Contribute towards sd Charges voted

Whereas the Church have agreed upon a fast to be kept on the Eighteenth Currant on y^e account of the awfull breach that God has Latly made amoungst us by taking away our Reverend Pastor by Death: as also to implore the Mercies of heaven for the Obtaining another setteled minister. Therefore the above named Committe for the Ministry are to see that suteable provision be made for such reverend ministers that shall Carry on the work of s^d Day or that shall be aiding or assisting therein and the town will pay the charges thereof voted

The free holders and other inhabitants of this Town Quallified according to Law for voting are to take Notice to meet here at y^e Meeting house on Wedensday the fifteenth Day of September Currant at Twelve of y^e Clock on sd Day

1 To Choose a Committe to see to y^e supply of the Pulpit with one to Dispencc the word of God to us: 2ly. To allow bills of Charge & to Raise a Tax for the Defraying of Necessary charges

3ly To Choose Jury men to serve at Newbery Court

4ly To see if the Town will give ruls to the Comittee for seating the People in the Meeting house

Dated Topsfield Sept: 3rd 1725 in y^e name & by Order of
Jacob Dorman Constable the rest of y^e Selectmen
of Topsfield

At A Lawfull Town meeting in Topsfield September y^e 15th 1725 1st M^r Isaac Peabody is Chosen Moderator for this meeting voted

2ly The Town Allowed to Ens: Amos Dorman 7:7:6 he having Paid five pound to Mr Hale & two pound to M^r Crocker for Preaching to us since the Revernd M^r Capens Decease: and for other things he found for y^e fast

voted 7:7:6

3ly The Town allowed to Jacob Peabody 1:1:2 it being for several things for Provision for the fast voted 1:1:2

4ly The Town Allowed to Cler: Elisha Perkins 0:6:6: it being for sundary things for y^e fast voted 0:6:6

5ly The Town allowed to Serg^t Ivory Hovey 1:5:6 for sundary things for provision for y^e fast voted 1:5:6

6ly the Town allowed to M^r John Hovey three shillings for Lamb & spice for y^e fast voted 0:3:0

7ly the Town allowed to Dea: John Howlett four shillings & Eleven pence for several things for the fast voted 0:4:11

8ly The Town allowed Nine shillings & six pence to Nath^l Capen for victualing several Ministers on Sabath day 0:9:6

9ly Serg^t Thomas Robinson & John Town are Chosen to serve on y^e Jury of Tryals at the next inferiour Court to be holden at Newbery for & within y^e County of Essex voted

10ly The former Committe for the Ministry viz Dea: Daniel Redington Dea: John Howlett Cler: Elisha Perkins Ens Amos Dorman & Serg^t Ivory Hovey are Chosen again to Procure and agree with a Minister to Dispencc the word of God unto us untill the first of Jan^{ry} next Ensuing voted

11ly The Town agreed that y^e present Selectmen should Levie a Tax of one hundred and twenty pounds for y^e De-fraying of y^e necessary Charges of the Town voted

Boston 31st May 1725

Rec^d of M^r Eliezar Lake Constable of P Zacheus Gould
Topsfield fifty one pounds in full for my
Master Jer. Allen Treasurer

this is a True Copy attest Jacob Peabody Clerk P george
Rogers

Where as Jacob Peabody was Chosen Clerk for the propri-
etors of the Late Divided & of the undivided Common
Land in Topsfield on y^e sixth of December 1725: he was
sworn to y^e faithfull Discharge of sd office before y^e Select-
men of s^d Town on y^e same Day

At a Lawfull Town meeting in Topsfield November 1st 1725
1st Cap^t Joseph Gould is Chosen Moderator for this meeting
voted

2ly Mr Isaac Peabody En: Amos Dorman & Jacob Pea-
body are Chosen a Committe to Reckon with Madam Pris-
cilla Capen and Adjust all the accompts that are betwixt her
and y^e Town Refering to y^e Reverend M^r Capens Sallery &
make report thereof to the Town in convenient time

3ly The Town agreed that the intrest of the Towns Loan
money shall go to pay y^e towns debts voted

The present Selectmen are impowered to receive s^d intrest
of y^e Trustees & Dispose of it to y^e afores^d use voted

4ly The Town allowed to En^s Amos Dorman five pounds
five shillings he having paid so much to M^r Osgood for
Preaching so amoungst us three Sabath Days voted 5:5:0

5ly The Town allowed to Jacob Averill three shillings &
six pence for slabs to mend the bridges near to Deaⁿ John
Howletts voted 0:3:6

6ly The Town Allowed to Daniel Gould two shillings & six
pence for two Logs to mend the bridge near to M^r John Ca-
pens house voted 0:2:6

7ly The Town Allowed to Jacob Peabody three shillings
for Timber to mend y^e bridge near his house 0:3:0

8ly The Town Allowed to Mrs Mary Baker two shillings & six pence for Timber to mend the Bridge near to M^r Jacob Dormans house voted 0:2:6

9ly The Town allowed to Sam^l Smith four shillings for Timber to mend y^e highways voted 0:4:0

10ly The Town allowed to Corp^l Jacob Robinson one shilling for timber for sd use voted 0:1:0

11ly The Town allowed to Cap^t John How two shillings & six pence for timber to mend y^e Bridge near Mr Clarks house voted 0:2:6

12ly The Town allowed to Cap^t Joseph Gould & Deaⁿ John Howlett twelve shillings for their trouble in taking in y^e intrest of y^e Towns Loan money for y^e year past voted 0:12:0

13ly The Town agreed to fence in all y^e Parsonage Land in Topsfield according to y^e same rule & by the same Ten years Rates that the last Division of Common Land in Topsfield was divided by, voted further the Town agreed that s^d Parsonage Land should be fenced in by y^e first day of June next with a Good sufficient fence voted

14 Mr Nath^l Porter Mr Eliezer Lake and Jacob Peabody are Chosen a committe to apportion and set to Every man his Proportion to fence about said Parsonage Land according to the Rule that is above expres^{ed} voted

15 Mr Nath Porter is Chosen a Trustee in y^e room of Cap^t Tho^s Baker Deceased voted

We the Subscribers the Committees respectively Chosen appointed by the Towns of Ipswich and Topsfield, to Perambulate the Line and renew the bounds between the sd Towns: have accordingly performed the said service, by Peambulating the Line and renewing the Bounds aforesaid; having new marked y^e Trees afore marked on y^e Line and heaving more stones to the old heaps on the said Line. Witness our hands the Day of novem: anno Domini 1725

John Hovey } for
Thomas Gould } Topsfield

Jonathan Wade } for
Nathaniel Hart } Ipswich
Phillip Fowler }

A True Copy of the return attest Jacob Peabody Town Clerk

(To be continued.)

VITAL STATISTICS OF TOPSFIELD, MASS.

FOR THE YEAR 1910.

BIRTHS.

1910.

- Jan. 11. June Elizabeth, dau. of Warren T. and Grace A. (Frame) Tilton.
Jan. 21. Francesca, dau. of Paul and Lucia (Le Caporal) La Cassesse.
Feb. 5. Fanny Forester, dau. of Hiram L. and Mary L. (Murphy) Clay.
Feb. 27. Irene Catherine, dau. of Melvin H. and Beatrice M. (Donnelly) Hicks.
Mar. 12. Hazen Rogers, son of Hazen R. and Mary E. (Deickhoff) Wildes.
Mar. 13. Guiseppi, son of Alphonse and Grazia (Paglia) Roberto.
Apr. 2. Robert Brooks, son of Charles R. and Anne H. (Edwards) Wait.
May 13. Henry Pingree, son of Henry F. and Margaret (Pingree) Long.
May 14. Stanley Dexter, son of Thomas W. and Gabrielle M. (Dexter) Peirce.
May 18. Ruth Ashton, dau. of Fred E. and Hattie E. (Fuller) Watson.
July 29. Mary Elizabeth, dau. of George T. and Elizabeth (Cherry) Beech.
Aug. 5. Clifford Carroll, son of Lewis H. and Elizabeth W. (Carroll) Williams.
Aug. 30. Francesco, son of David and Gesulda (Abbadessa) Gangi.
Oct. 2. Dorothy Pearl, dau. of Ira R. and Callie A. (Clarke) Andrews.
Oct. 8. Walter Archibald, son of James and Ellen (Stoddard) Wood.
Nov. 26. Helen Pingree, dau. of Franklin and Helen K. (Smith) Balch.

MARRIAGES.

1910.		
Feb.	22.	{ Harry E. Lake (Topsfield), son of Otto E. and Flora E. (Adams) Lake. { Laura A. Liming (Dedham), dau. of Christopher and Drusilla (Ream) Liming.
July	6.	{ Charles A. Pingree (Georgetown), son of Charles H. and Lucy S. (Harris) Pingree. { Mary L. Woodbury (Topsfield), dau. of Isaac M. and Sarah K. (Leach) Woodbury.
Aug.	29.	{ Benjamin D. Hodges (Topsfield), son of Benjamin and Maria R. (Reynolds) Hodges. { Virginia C. Reynolds (Topsfield), son of Mark and Elizabeth (Anderson) Reynolds.
Nov.	7.	{ Walter Farnham (Beverly), son of Charles H. and Lucy (Simpson) Farnham. { Ada M. Phillips (Topsfield), dau. of William N. and Matilda A. (Davis) White.

DEATHS.

1910.		
Jan.	19.	Abby Eliza, wife of Stephen M. Pierce and dau. of Thomas and Elizabeth (Merrill) Perkins, aged 64 yrs., 9 mos., 4 dys.
Jan.	31.	Mary J., widow of John C. Williams and dau. of ——— and ——— (Craig) Harding, aged 73 yrs.
Feb.	6.	Frank Alonzo Lord, son of Nathaniel A. and Helen A. (Chamberlain) Lord, aged 54 yrs., 4 mos., 1 day.
Mar.	13.	Rebecca Eveline, wife of John B. Lake and dau. of Nathaniel and Pamela (Gould) Dorman, aged 80 yrs., 9 mos., 20 dys.
Mar.	19.	Alfred F. Tilton, son of Josiah B. and Nancy (Adams) Tilton, aged 74 yrs., 11 mos.
Mar.	22.	Willaim Perkins, son of Hezekiah B. and Lydia (Ross) Perkins, aged 87 yrs., 5 mos., 18 dys.
Apr.	9.	Silas Roberts Burnham, son of Ansell and Elizabeth (Roberts) Burnham, aged 60 yrs., 6 mos., 4 dys.
Apr.	22.	Hulda F. Pike, dau. of Benjamin and Hulda (Dorman) Pike, aged 74 yrs., 4 dys.
Apr.	22.	Eliza Ann, widow of Alonzo Kneeland and dau. of Moses and Mary (Mason) Welch, aged 75 yrs., 10 months., 22 dys.
May	24.	Mabel A., wife of Fred G. Smith and dau. of Calvin W. and Harriet (Gould) Fuller, aged 33 yrs., 16 dys.
July	3.	Ephraim Perkins, son of Jacob and Mary (Pratt) Perkins, aged 86 yrs., 6 mos., 27 dys.
July	10.	Thomas M. Aitchison, son of Thomas M. and Bella (Aitchison), Aitchison, aged 24 yrs., 1 mo., 27 dys.

- July 18. Mary Gammell, dau. of John and Emily (Dechman) Gammell, aged 43 yrs., 5 mos., 12 dys.
- July 24. Gilbert B. Balch, son of Humphrey and Hannah P. (Bradstreet) Balch, aged 54 years 5 mos., 15 dys.
- Aug. 5. Henry Ware Lake, son of David and Harriet (Wilkins) Lake, aged 72 yrs., 4 mos., 28 dys.
- Sept. 5. Isaac B. Young, son of Isaac and Delia (Tobin) Young, aged 73 yrs., 8 mos., 4 dys.
- Sept. 7. Ruth Ashton, dau. of Fred E. and Hattie E. (Fuller) Watson, aged 3 mos., 11 dys.
- Oct. 27. Mabel Frances, wife of Albert C. Dick and dau. of Edwin and Sarah (Moore) Adams, aged 44 yrs., 2 mos., 17 dys.
- Oct. 28. Amelia Carr Skaden, dau. of Joseph C. and Jane (Saxbury) Skaden, aged 81 yrs.
- Nov. 21. Henry R. M. White, son of Manley and Mary Ann M. (White) White, aged 81 yrs., 2 mos., 5 dys.
- Nov. 28. Elizabeth Hanson, dau. of Thomas A. B. and Elizabeth (Hanson) Norris, aged 36 yrs., 9 mos., 23 dys.

Deaths in other places, Interment in Topsfield.

1910.

- Jan. 26. Joseph Towne, died in Lynn, Mass., aged 84 yrs.
- Jan. 28. Annie S. Lamson, died in Hamilton, Mass., aged 68 yrs., 6 mos., 22 dys.
- Mar. 12. Alice M. Fuller, died in No. Reading, Mass., aged 39 yrs.
- Mar. 28. Benjamin Potter, died in Danvers, Mass., aged 34 yrs.
- Apr. 1. Elizabeth H. Lake, died in Peabody, Mass., aged 72 yrs., 9 mos., 4 dys.
- May 2. Florence M. Kirk, died in Danvers, Mass., aged 34 yrs.
- June 4. William B. Perkins, died in Middleton, Mass., aged 72 yrs., 3 mos., 30 dys.
- June 25. Victoria A. Harris, died in Waltham, Mass., aged 53 yrs., 1 mo., 25 dys.
- July 12. Augustus T. Billings, died in Malden, Mass., aged 68 yrs., 6 mos., 4 dys.
- Aug. 8. Chester M. Striley, died in Salem, Mass., aged 27 yrs., 8 mos., 10 dys.
- Sept. 20. Herbert P. Woodbury, Jr., died in Malden, Mass.
- Sept. 24. Carrol Mellish Woodbury, died in Malden, Mass., aged 30 yrs., 9 mos., 28 dys.
- Dec. 12. Edgar Richardson Walsh, died in Salem, Mass., aged 4 dys.
- Dec. 19. Mary Elizabeth Lovett, died in Lawrence, Mass., aged 63 yrs., 5 mos., 16 dys.

CHRONOLOGY OF EVENTS IN TOPSFIELD IN 1910.

1910.

- February 22. Streets first lighted by electricity.
- April. David Cummings, of Somerville, descended from Topsfield ancestors, bequeathed to the town of Topsfield, for its poor, \$4,000; for the care of the South Side Cemetery, \$1,000; and to the Topsfield Historical Society, \$2,000.
- July 9. Thomas Aitchison, a carpenter employed on the Pentecost estate, was drowned at Poor's Point, Hood's Pond.
- Sept. 20-21. Annual cattle show and fair of the Essex Agricultural Society held in Topsfield on the grounds of the Society.
- October 1. The post office in Topsfield advanced in grade to the presidential class.
- October. Great drought; 28 families at one time depending upon the town pump for their water supply.

BUILDINGS CONSTRUCTED DURING THE YEAR 1910.

- James M. Marsh, Boston St.; residence and garage.
- William E. Northey, Prospect St.; addition and alterations to dwelling-house.
- Henry F. Long, Summer St.; dwelling-house.
- Isaac M. Woodbury, off Haverhill St.; ice-house.
- Henry H. Roberts, Main St.; wood-working and carpenters' shop.
- George L. Gould, Washington St.; garage.
- C. Harry Shoemaker, Ipswich St.; addition to dwelling-house.
- Charles P. Potter, off Central St.; carpenters' shop and store-house.
- Charles V. Jackman, Pemberton Ave.; house and bakeshop for Italians.
- Bradley W. Palmer, Asbury St.; stable-garage.
- John S. Lawrence, Ipswich St.; addition to dwelling-house.
- Mrs. Lucretia Smith, River St.; addition to dwelling-house.
- Mrs. Susan I. Perkins, Washington St.; addition to dwelling-house.
- Dr. Edward C. Streeter, Asbury St.; addition to dwelling-house.
- Thomas E. Proctor, Perkins St.; the Donaldson barn and out-buildings taken down.

